



Friday November 15 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various currencies including the US Dollar, Japanese Yen, and others.

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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## Friday Review



Joe Queenan learns to love Spike Lee



Alan Partridge reviews Tony Ferrino

With European weather

Cover story

Music pages 10/13

# £27m for power 'fat cats'

## Political row rekindled by new utilities bonanza

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

A GROUP of power industry executives scooped £26.9 million in pay-offs and compensation payments as a result of last year's takeovers and mergers in the electricity industry.

for stricter enforcement of the proposed codes of practice. The huge payouts will infuriate unions in an industry which has seen 50,000 jobs axed in the six years since privatisation. They are braced for further job cuts following the takeovers. The scale of payments is revealed in documents filed at Companies House and analysed by the Guardian. It far exceeds earlier estimates. One executive, former North West chairman Ken Harvey, received a total package of nearly £2 million, including a last-minute pay rise of £277,000 — enough to pay the power bill

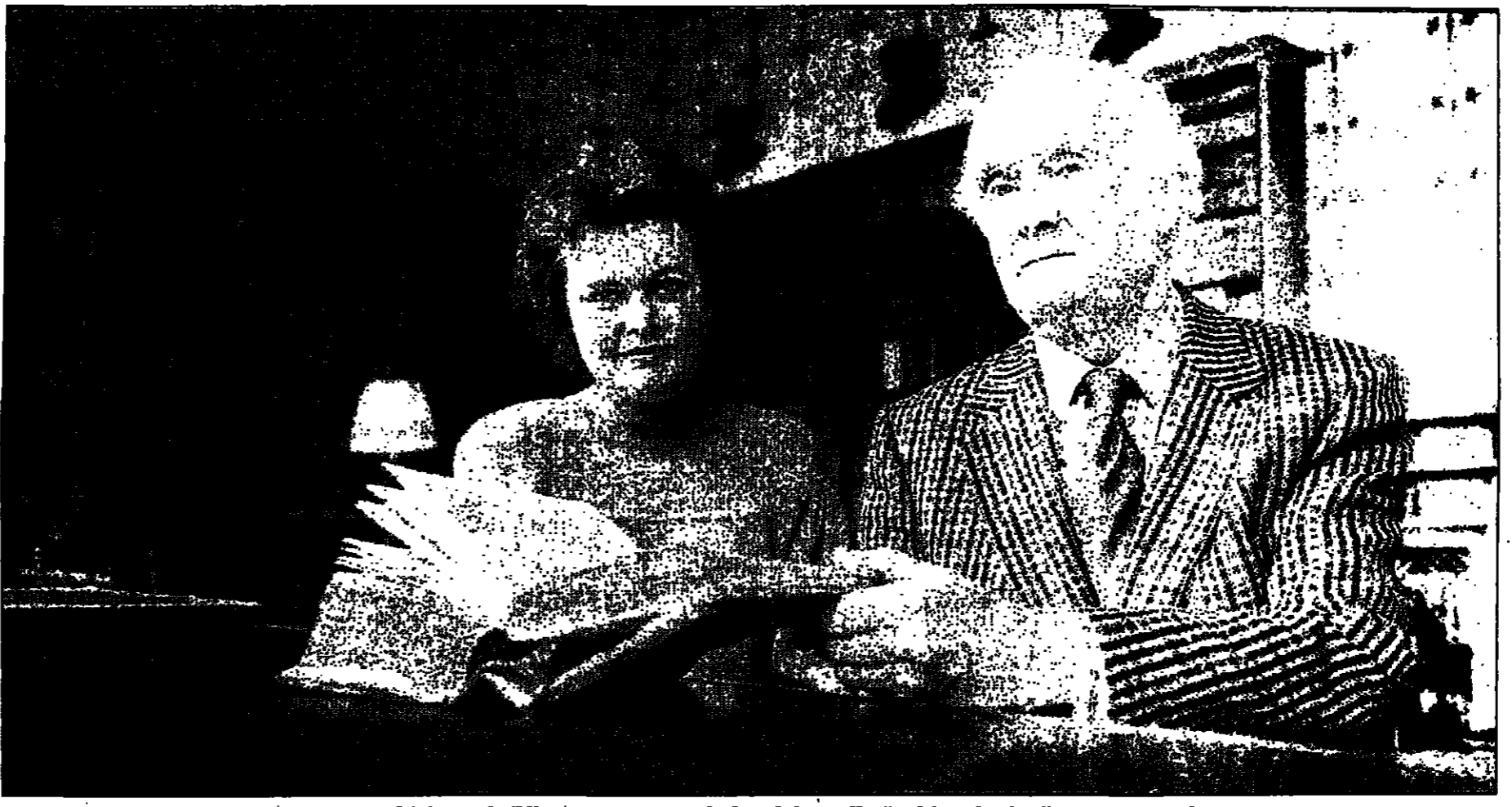
of an average family for 1,250 years — before the Manchester-based electricity company was bought by neighbour North West Water. The pay increase took his total remuneration to £2.87 million, including payments for share options, pension, and compensation for loss of office. Enormous payments have also been made to small numbers of executives at Eastern Group, Seaboard, Manweb and South Wales Electricity. Six regional electricity companies were bought last year as part of the wave of electricity industry takeovers. Midlands

was purchased this year, and neither it nor South Western Electricity has filed their full accounts. The figures show huge benefits have gone not just to directors who have quit the industry, but also to some who continue to hold highly paid posts. At Eastern Group, chairman John Devaney was paid more than £1.3 million for his share options when Lord Hanson's conglomerate bought the Ipswich-based electricity company last year. He remains at the helm of the firm. Dr James Smith, Eastern's former chairman and a grandee of the industry privatisation process, was also paid more than £1.3 million for his options. He has now left the company. Eastern paid £11.8 million to senior staff to compensate them for the loss of share options after the takeover. Some remain in their posts. The pay-offs total will be much higher than the £2.9 million to date, as Midlands Electricity and South Western Electricity have been bought but have yet to declare directors' remuneration. Northern Electric and East Midlands Electricity are also poised to change hands. Merchant banks, lawyers, accountants, and public relations firms have also prospered on the back of the takeovers, totalling £12.7 billion over 18 months. The cost of defending the six electricity companies came to more than £75 million. The pay-offs and massive fees to City advisers will reignite outcry over "fat cats" just as Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang must decide whether to block the recent bids for East Midlands turn to page 3, column 4

## £1,200 payout too little for me, says duke

Stuart Millar

HE is worth £78 million, owns 20,000 acres and can boast that his second home is regarded as the most romantic house in England. But His Grace the Duke of Rutland, Britain's 64th wealthiest man, is locked in battle with a building society over the regal sum of £1,200. The normally reclusive 77-year-old 10th Duke, whose art treasures alone are valued at £34 million, has provoked fury from small investors in the Alliance & Leicester with demands that he should receive a greater share of the £50 million the society is offering to members when it becomes a bank next year. He and 1,000 other wealthy members — with investments totalling £50 million — dismiss the A&L's across-the-board bonus share offer to give all 2.4 million members a windfall of about £1,200 each



The Duke and Duchess of Rutland: Alliance and Leicester building society's across-the-board share offer "unfair and unjust" to wealthy members

## Multi-millionaire with eye for a bargain, despite two stately homes

BORN Charles John Robert Manners in 1919, the 10th Duke of Rutland inherited his title and his fortune at the age of 20 when his father died, writes Stuart Millar. Last year, he was valued at £78 million — £1 million poorer than pop singer Paul McCartney. Belvoir Castle, the family seat, boasts 160 rooms and sits in 18,000 acres of land. The estate is also home to the Duke's foxhounds, the Belvoir Hunt, where Princess Diana overcame her distaste for field sports.

of the leisure group Rutland Hotels Ltd. The duke is known as much for his looks as his wealth. He was once seen as a suitable escort for the then Princess Elizabeth, and is widely recognised to be the inspiration for many of Barbara Cartland's bodice-ripping heroines. Even now she describes him as the "most handsome man in England". The family is well used to making enemies. Last summer, 5,000 trout in his lake were poisoned with cyanide, and threats have been received from extreme anti-hunting groups.

# Zaire rebels threaten rescue mission

Chris McGreal in Goma and Martin Walker in Washington

AN INTERNATIONAL force of 15,000 troops is to start deploying in and around Zaire early next week, officials meeting in New York decided yesterday. But rebels in eastern Zaire rejected any outside force that failed to disarm Rwandan Hutu extremists, while the Hutus threatened to attack it. The factions kept up their fighting, threats and shelling of refugee camps, while Europe and north America

agreed the United Nations mandate and the orderly planning of "our biggest logistical challenge since the Gulf war". Britain sent the deputy chief of the defence staff, General Alex Hurrell, to the New York planning session with Canadian, United States, French, Spanish and other nations. A British reconnaissance force of about 40 leaves for Zaire today to survey the situation before any final decision on sending a force of about 1,000. Yesterday, 45 Commando, 1st Para and 5 Airborne headquarters were put on increased alert for deployment. Speaking in the Commons, the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, said: "The House will rightly ask why Britain should become involved in a place far from our country and where no vital national interest is engaged. Because we are a civilised nation. But in Goma, Laurent Kabila, leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, said he was suspicious of plans to deploy troops from France or Britain because of their colonial history in Africa. His forces in Goma yesterday launched artillery and mortar attacks at Mugunga

refugee camp, a base for the Hutu Interahamwe militias which continued to resist the rebel advance after the Zairian army fled. The first US scouting party told the Pentagon on Goma yesterday that the airport could be secured and used as an advance base, and that the security threat was manageable. But it stressed that the priority would be to get the base functioning and make the security corridor to refugee areas safe, before the mammoth logistical task of bringing food and medical aid to more than a million refugees. Only the Canadians can claim innocence of a colonial record. The neo-colonial flavour of the force was strengthened yesterday when Britain reconsidered its offer of participation, and South Africa said it was not quite ready to join what is to be called Operation Phoenix Tusk. In Washington, Republican congress members voiced doubts about the hastily conceived and vaguely mandated mission for up to 5,000 US troops in hearings with the defence secretary, William Perry, yesterday. Mr Perry said the US would not go in unless it were invited, and while US troops would have "robust" orders to defend themselves, "we are not going in as a means of conducting military operations". There was little sign of any invitation from Goma yesterday. Mr Kabila criticised the planned force as intent on feeding Rwandan refugees without combating the extremist militias which have used the camps to attack Zaire and cross into Rwanda. Mr Kabila said his rebels would not relinquish control of Goma airport and insisted aid must come by road. Dangers of peacekeeping, page 6; Leicester comment, page 6; He bloodless miracle, page 9

Advertisement for Abbey National Guaranteed Growth Bond. Features a large '140%' graphic and text: 'UP TO 140% GUARANTEED. FILE FOR EARLY INVESTORS. A PREMIUM RATE OF 8% GROSS P.A. UNTIL 1.2.97. The Abbey National Guaranteed Growth Bond. Simply invest a minimum of £10,000 over a 3 or 5 year period and receive a guaranteed return of up to 140%. To ensure that you don't miss out, call into your nearest branch, or call Abbey National Direct Free and quote reference A528/12. 0800 100 801'.

Table listing sections: Inside, Britain, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters 6, Obituaries 10, Friday Review, Quick Crossword 15, Weather, TV and Radio 16.

Small advertisement for Abbey National with a barcode and reference number 9 770261 307354.

2 NEWS

Sketch

Old goat and the little sardine



Simon Hoggart

ARRIVED in the Chamber to catch a Northern Ireland minister, Sir John Wheeler. (Sir John is a figure of such majestic pomposity that when a secretary failed to write "Sir" on a letter to him, he complained, and the young woman was almost crushed.)

lights flashing". Like me just now, Mr Major turned to lurching sarcasm. As he approaches his seventh year in office, the Prime Minister increasingly adopts a tone which implies: "Only those of us who have spent time in government are capable of understanding government."

Income distribution remains more unequal than in 1979 □ 13.7 million still living below poverty line

Poor narrow income gap

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

The gap between Britain's rich and poor has stopped widening for the first time in 20 years, according to official figures released yesterday which show that 400,000 fewer people are living below the official poverty line.

In a full-time job, the figures reveal. The income gap between rich and poor started widening before the Conservatives took office in 1979, but accelerated sharply during the 1980s.

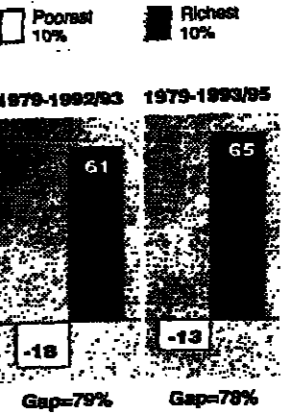
level, with that of the poorest tenth falling 13 per cent and that of the richest tenth rising by 65 per cent. Compared with the 1992-93 picture, the bottom 40 per cent of households in income terms improved their relative position by 1995-96.

growth, tax increases and boosts to in-work benefits for the low-paid. Ministers found themselves unable to crowd about the change, having played down the growth of inequality in the first place.

at the top of the agenda in the forthcoming general election. Of the 13.7 million people living in poverty, couples with children were the largest single group, she said.

Mind the gap

Economic gap between the rich and the poor: income after housing costs, percentage change.



Households Below Average Income. The Stationery Office, £52.



MARGARET Thatcher (above) was yesterday scolded as "wrong and emotional" by a senior Chinese official after the former Prime Minister condemned the jailing of dissidents, boasted about Hong

Kong's success under colonialism and predicted the demise of one-party rule in China, writes Andrew Higgins in Beijing. A strongly-worded lecture by Lady Thatcher at a two-day business conference

in Beijing drew a pointed rebuke from Wu Jie, vice-chairman of China's state commission for restructuring economic systems. The trade minister, Wu Yi, left the room during Lady Thatcher's address.

"She has just said many good things but she has also said some things that are not quite accurate and expressed them in a rather emotional way," Wu Jie said.

First night

Looking for Mr Redgrave

Michael Billington

Shakespeare For My Father

Haymarket Theatre, London

LYNN Redgrave's one-woman show, widely seen in America, is the story of her lifelong quest for her father's love.

breathily offering advice to the aspiring actress. The danger is that it could easily descend into green room gossip: an inbred show for aficionados only. But what makes it something infinitely more than a provincial assembly with subordinate powers to legislate over a shrinking portion of our national affairs," Lord Tebbit said.

Tebbit slates 'pygmy' MPs

Thatcher stalwart says slide to Brussels would destroy Tories

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE former Conservative Party chairman, Lord Tebbit, has dismissed with scorn the bulk of today's MPs, describing them as "parliamentary pygmies".

mentary pygmies accepting a slide towards being little more than a provincial assembly with subordinate powers to legislate over a shrinking portion of our national affairs," Lord Tebbit said.

state called Europe, would not just split the Conservative Party. It would destroy it. "All those Conservatives who believe freedom, independence and democracy matter above all other political programmes would leave to join with those of other parties who shared that view."

In The Week tomorrow

Ecstasy or bust

Can campaigners change drugs'n clubs culture?

First principles

John Berger on why art must go back to the cavemen

Plus Gays and Christians

'Drunk' drummer fights sacking for missing beat

John Ezard

"A TYMPANIST can destroy the rhythmic harmony of the orchestra completely if he's not in time," the BBC's northern head of music, Trevor Green, told an industrial tribunal yesterday.

completely. Then "the tympany wheel came off the podium and obviously made quite a noise", according to Mr Green.

He told Mr Lomax's counsel, David Binns: "I'm not a puritan. Certainly I like a drink myself. I do not like drinking in venues where the performance is taking place."

Advertisement for 'Luvvy lubby' featuring images of the product and a price tag of £7.99. The ad includes the slogan 'Don't be a plonker, save yourself some dosh!' and the BBC logo.

'He is a vicious, vituperative, vitriolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant, excretory, disgruntled, cavilling, small-minded, arse-licking, toadying sycophant who should never be let near a theatre again' — Michael Bogdanov on the critic he hates the most

# Enter the director, cursing villains

Dan Glatzer Arts Correspondent

**V**ICIOUS, excretory, arse-licking, arrogant. And that was just the headline. Theatre director Michael Bogdanov yesterday sparked off a search for the most detested critic in Britain when he published a vitriolic attack in the New Statesman.

"I am often asked which critic I dislike most," he wrote. "I am hard-pushed. There are many contenders." Mr Bogdanov, artistic director of the English Shakespeare Company, goes on to describe a critic who is a "vicious, vituperative, vitriolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant, excretory, disgruntled, cavilling, small-minded, arse-licking, toadying sycophant who should never be let near a theatre again".

The portrait could apply to any one of several critics. Chief suspect for many was Charles Spencer, of the Daily Telegraph. He wrote a damning review of Mr Bogdanov's RSC production of *Faust* last year in which he described the director as a buffoon and wrote: "One's knees positively itches for Bogdanov's groin."

Mr Spencer willingly accepted the role of chief suspect yesterday. "I'd be honoured. I'd be very happy to be his most-hated critic. I can't be ruled out. I normally hate all of his productions, although I did like one once."

Mr Spencer revealed that he had received a letter from Mr Bogdanov after his review of *Faust* was published which bore some resemblance to yesterday's article. In the letter, Mr Bogdanov attacked his "naughty, vicious, vituperative [sic], ignorant, ill-informed attack on my person and my production... in case you were thinking of attending the transfer at the Barbican — don't. Furthermore, I do not wish to see you at any of my productions in the future."

Case proven? Apparently not. Another suspect, the Observer's Michael Coveney,

said: "He's said that to almost every critic. Bogdanov could be referring to anyone who doesn't like his work, and that's most of us. Bogdanov is a scrapper — nothing wrong with that."

Mr Bogdanov's RSC production of *Faust*, which opened at Stratford last year and transferred to the Barbican this autumn, received generally favourable reviews. It was remarked upon for Bogdanov's updating of the story, with nudity, video screens, and complicated stage machinery.

Chief suspect for many, and a critic with a string of convictions, was Nicholas de Jongh, of the Evening Standard. "I'm mildly amused," he said. "Isn't it interesting that the actors and directors who get good reviews are never to be found attacking critics?"

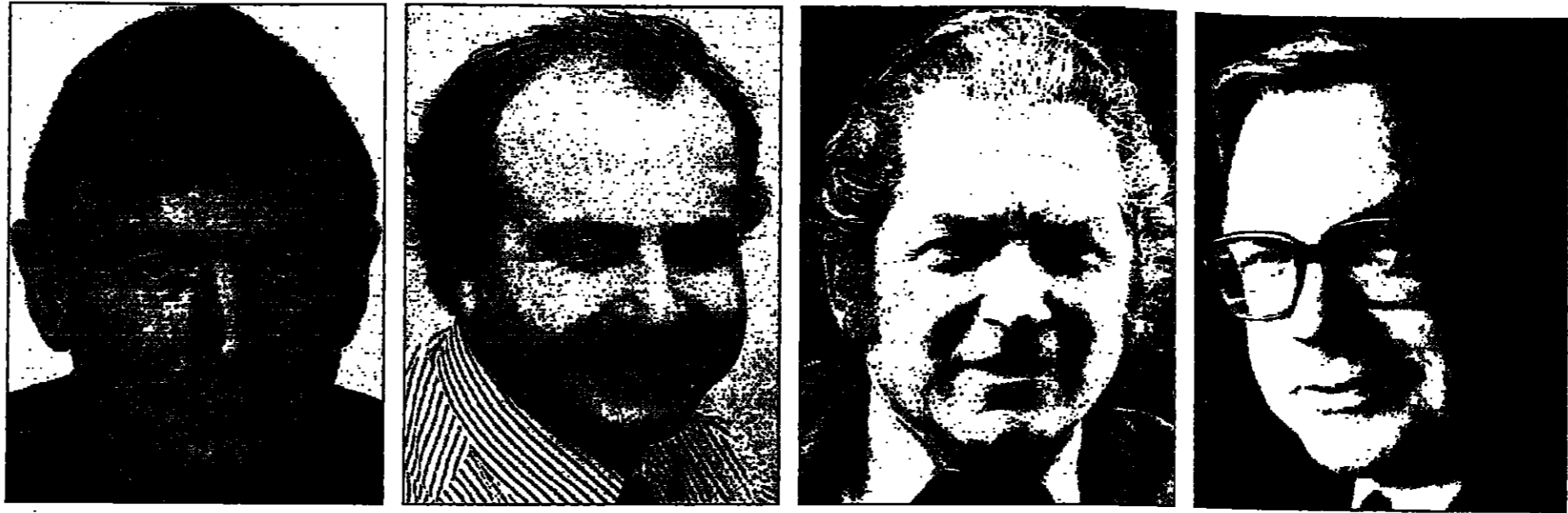
Mr de Jongh also noted that critics wrote for audiences, not for directors. "He wants critics not to be members of the audience but people with special knowledge, which I think is not suitable."

John Peter, of the Sunday Times, also in the line-up, said: "This mass bollocking of critics is silly. He does something which he deeply disapproves of in critics, which is to generalise. But we shouldn't be too touchy because we are in the advantageous position. Bogdanov has had a good career in the theatre. It's a shame he has so much ill-feeling bottled up."

The Guardian's Michael Billington, an early suspect who has since been eliminated from inquiries, said: "It's not precise enough. It's scatter-gun rhetoric. I think it's a mischievous device to get people speculating. Why doesn't he have the courage to name names?"

Mr Billington did, however, agree with one of Mr Bogdanov's points: that critics would benefit from being involved in theatre productions.

Mr Bogdanov may be able to take sweeter revenge on the critics: four of them, including Mr de Jongh and Mr Billington, are to direct plays at the Battersea Arts Centre next spring.



Speaking their minds... top, left to right, Michael Bogdanov, Charles Spencer, of the Daily Telegraph, John Peter, of the Sunday Times, and the Guardian's Michael Billington; below, a scene from the director's production of *Faust*, described variously as dire, inventive, fatiguing and gleefully theatrical



## ... And what the theatre critics say about Michael Bogdanov

**Charles Spencer**  
*Daily Telegraph*  
It's a dirty job but someone's got to do it, and after more than six hours of ceaseless gunk, putting the boot into Michael Bogdanov's dire production of Goethe's masterpiece becomes a duty as well as a pleasure... One experiences a similar revulsion as this dreadful director, who has been so aptly nicknamed Bogger, gets his clumsy mitts on yet another masterpiece of world drama... His one quality is a certain crude vigour... What's particularly irksome here

is that all the japes and wisard whistles are so dreadfully familiar... One's knees positively itches for Bogdanov's groin... But then suffering is what this *Faust* is all about. The cast suffer, the audience suffer, and Goethe suffers most of all as this buffoon of a director wrecks havoc on a classic.

**Michael Billington**  
*The Guardian*  
A powerful theatrical event: proof that the RSC is often at its best when dealing with the impossible... a long day is sustained by Bogdanov's visual inventiveness... but Goethe's huge epic, although subjected to critical re-evaluation, is

still presented with undeniable panache.

**Michael Coveney**  
*The Observer*  
Dull it ain't. Great, neither. A bit of a knees-up. Good use of trapezes... Bogdanov's rather old-fashioned stream of sight-gagging and actors-in-the-audience wears you down.

about three hours, and the second continues for another three... there are several occasions when members of the audience can do themselves a favour by not resuming their seats.

**John Peter**  
*Sunday Times*  
This is a riveting, exciting and extraordinarily uneven production. Bogdanov handles *Faust*'s intricate

architecture scrupulously and masterfully... but he is also capable of the most barbarous vulgarities.

**Benedict Nightingale**  
*The Times*  
There were times when I caught myself wondering if I, too, had been stuck with the play for 60 years or so. The ending is silly, vulgar stuff, which momentarily makes you wonder if Bogdanov is reviving the play in order to mock it.

**Paul Taylor**  
*The Independent*  
Bogdanov's production shows what fluency can be achieved with trapezes, a tilting two-way mirror for supernatural visions... and a very active trap at the centre of the stage.

**Sarah Henning**  
*Financial Times*  
Michael Bogdanov rises to the challenge admirably, with a gleefully theatrical production...

## Rate rise fear over prices

### City pushes for dearer loans as Clarke shrugs off 'aberration'

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

**T**HE Government was last night battling to stave off growing City demands for a fresh rise in interest rates after official data showed inflation at its highest for more than three years.

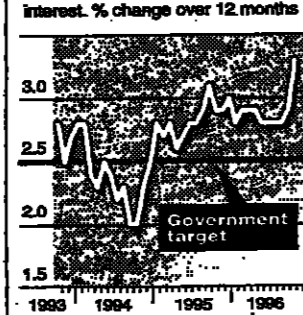
Staring surged on the foreign exchanges as dealers anticipated a call for dearer borrowing from the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, in the wake of the Budget.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, shrugged off the increase in the underlying annual rate from 2.9 per cent to 3.3 per cent as a statistical aberration — as did the Prime Minister in Commons clashes with Labour leader Tony Blair. After pushing up rates by a quarter-point to six per cent a fortnight ago, the Government is eager to avoid a further increase when the poor state of public finances has precluded a generous pre-election Budget.

But with the underlying (excluding mortgages) inflation rate well above its 2.5 per cent target, the City is expecting Mr Clarke to come under strong pressure from Mr George when the two next meet on December 11.

After the figures were released, the Chancellor said:

### Rising inflation



"As I have repeatedly demonstrated, policy is set to meet our inflation target. That is why we are sustaining our best performance on inflation in 50 years."

According to the Office for National Statistics, prices remained unchanged last month, but the annual rate went up because the sharp fall in the cost of living in October 1995 ceased to be included in the latest 12-month total. As a result, the all-items Retail Prices Index indicated that annual inflation rose from 2.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent in October, the largest monthly rise since August 1990, when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait sent world oil prices soaring.

The 0.4 point increase in

## Executives scoop £27m in utilities bonanza

continued from page 1 and Northern Electric by US utilities.

Mr Lang is under pressure to refer the bids by Nebraska-based CalEnergy and Virginian utility Dominion Resources to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to suppress further controversy in the run-up to the election.

Labour will claim these figures justify its plans for windfall taxes on the public utilities. Critics will also see the pay-offs as proof that the Government-backed Greenbury committee on executive pay has failed.

One company, Seaboard, awarded a total of more than 400,000 share options to five of its directors in June last year, despite the fact that the Greenbury committee was considering how to rein back the huge payouts arising from options.

Five months later this tranche of options alone made the directors up to £975,000 when the US utility Central and South West Corporation bid \$1.6 billion for Seaboard with the backing of the UK company board.

One electricity company sought to insulate its staff, including executives, from tax and national insurance on the hefty gains. Bought by Welsh Water and renamed Hyder, South Wales Electricity discloses that it set aside \$5.7 million to meet those costs for holders of share options.

**When white directors shun Hollywood and persist in making interesting, complex, thought-provoking films, they get totally undeserved Academy Awards. When Spike Lee does it, he gets dissed.**

Joe Queenan on America's most difficult director

## Friday Review cover story

Buying a computer for the first time or as a seasoned technology expert, decisions are always made by the head and the wallet and seldom the heart.

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4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Woman loses case against Lincoln dean

VERITY FREESTONE, the woman who alleged she had an affair with the Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, yesterday lost her right to pursue him for legal retribution in the county court.

Ski instructors win

THE European Commission has intervened to defend the rights of British ski instructors, ruling that a ban on them teaching on the French and Italian pistes is illegal.

Whitehall to monitor MI5

A WHITEHALL committee has been set up to monitor the performance of MI5. The unit — the Sub-Committee on Security Service Priorities and Performance follows a secret review of the work of the security and intelligence agencies conducted by Sir Michael Quinlan, former permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Sir John Soane's expands

ONE of the most eccentric museums in the country, Sir John Soane's in London, has bought the Grade II listed house next door in Lincoln's Inn Fields with \$500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Disaster rules ignored

FEW hospitals are complying with government guidelines on planning for disasters, researchers say today. The guidelines stipulate contingency plans needed in case of an air crash or similar disaster.

Living South Africa

THE Living South Africa Memorial, mentioned in a report about Jenny Joseph's poem, Warning, on October 12, is a British fund set up to support education for the living in memory of citizens of all races who died in apartheid-related violence.

Salvage on the Hanover

FOLLOWING our article "Silence is golden for diver given treasure riptus" (October 28), the Receiver of Wrecks has asked us to point out that a recent meeting to discuss salvage due on the Hanover, which sank off Cornwall in 1763, dealt only with items already recovered.

Vice-chancellors claim a disaffected underclass will be created if universities fail to expand intake

Call for 25pc more students

THE Government must lift its artificial ceiling on numbers of students at university or risk the creation of a disaffected and disenfranchised underclass unable to break through into the high-skill jobs, vice-chancellors warned yesterday.

If the sector expanded to meet demand, there would be a funding shortfall of \$5.8 billion by 2005/06. The state, employers and graduates would all have to pay more to maintain the quality of higher education.

No letters after their names, but they're not short of kudos or cash

JOHN Major can hardly be categorised as a member of the educational underclass which the vice-chancellors see as the fate of clever-enough people who do not manage to get to university, writes John Corbett.

made it to the top. Role models abound of successful people across the professions who never got a degree.

Surgeon with Aids virus gets clearance to operate

Erland Clouston

A SURGEON diagnosed as HIV positive will begin operating again by Christmas, although patients will be asked if they object, health chiefs said yesterday.

transmitting HIV during ear operations which rely on long-range techniques. "It became obvious to me that the kind of surgery I did ... would not put the patient at risk," he said yesterday.

Erland Clouston

He has waged a discreet campaign to regain access to the speciality in which he has an international reputation. Some of the strain of his two-year struggle showed yesterday when he acknowledged he had often been tempted to abandon his fight.

Infected health workers will be encouraged to disclose condition

are frightened," he said. Prof Browning appeared confident that his condition would not deter patients. "Over the last nine months I have been raising the question [with them] and I've been absolutely delighted with the response," he said.



George Browning, a surgeon who has won his fight to be allowed to carry out operations two years after he was excluded from operating theatres

1 in 10 women fight off HIV

Chris Millin Medical Correspondent

SCIENTISTS are confirming today that some people appear to have a natural ability to fight off the Aids virus and remain free of illness despite being repeatedly exposed to it.

They have been a number of studies of prostitutes in Africa and gay men in America where some people have consistently been found free of HIV although they were at high risk of contracting it.

The Open University logo and advertisement for MSc in Computing through open learning. It lists topics like software engineering, artificial intelligence, and project management.

NHS trusts in deficit as executives take pay rise

MORE than half all NHS trusts last year failed in their duty to achieve their financial targets and almost one in five returned a deficit, figures released today show.

Major rejects call for free vote on gun ban

JOHN Major yesterday rejected a last-minute plea by parents of pupils killed by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane for a free vote on a total gun ban in the Commons on Monday night.

Two schoolgirls admit kicking teenager to death at fairground

TWO schoolgirls yesterday admitted kicking to death a teenager who intervened to split up a fight at a fairground earlier this year.

Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Kamal Ahmed and Roy Greenslade on Fergie book tussle

Murky tabloid battle for readers sees Express falling victim to a right royal sting



The Duchess of York brandishing a copy of her autobiography, My Story, which was officially published in Britain yesterday

AS THE Duchess of York poured her heart out to the BBC's Today programme yesterday, the spotlight was finally moving off her and on to even murkier affairs...

Information by obtaining a copy of the book, in breach of copyright agreements signed with the Mail. The arrest and allegations of backroom deals came at an embarrassing time for the Express...

and the journalist was ordered to fly to London with the originals which he was carrying in a brown suitcase. When he arrived the Express shredded the faxed copies.

private life became public. The programme gave the item 20 minutes after its 8.10am news, a slot more usually reserved for the Prime Minister or world leaders.

Duchess may not be able to stop spending money on herself

SHE has finally admitted it. In her interview on the BBC's Today programme yesterday the Duchess of York said she was addicted to shopping, writes Kamal Ahmed.

Abduction warning for schools

EDUCATION officials in Lincolnshire yesterday confirmed they had issued a warning to all their schools about a self-confessed child abductor who they believe could pose a risk to pupils.

Couple and boys found dead

THE bodies of a married couple and three boys, aged six, 10 and 15, may have lain undiscovered for up to 48 hours, police said yesterday.

Advertisement for Eagle Star Direct insurance. Features a large image of a person in a protective suit and text: 'OR talk to insurance people who treat you like an individual. Interested? Call 0800 333 800 for a motor or home quote.'

Grief blamed by viscount for drink driving

VISCOUNT Weymouth, heir to the Marquess of Bath, yesterday blamed his drink driving on his grief after the death of his girlfriend in a terrorist bomb attack in India.

Advertisement for Crown Computer Products. Promotes a Pentium P133 and Laser Printer for £999 + VAT, or just £150 deposit with nothing more to pay until March 1997. Includes contact number 01 704 895 815.

Advertisement for Vtech and Texas Instruments. Promotes a Vtech Pentium P133 PC with 28 Speed CD ROM and a Texas Instruments MicroLaser Win/4 laser printer. Includes pricing and contact information.

Dangers of peacekeeping in Zaire

# Rebels without a united cause

**Chris McGreal in Goma reports on the threat to the Western aid mission from the various military factions**

**W**HEN British and American troops descend on eastern Zaire they will encounter an array of rebel groups whose leaders may claim unity but which are as fractured as those they are fighting.

On the one side is a rebel alliance which gathers up long dormant guerrilla groups with roots in post-independence nationalist and Marxist stirrings; Zairean Tutsis driven to rebellion by state-sponsored persecution; and Rwandan soldiers.

On the other are the Hutu extremists who fled Rwanda two years ago, their local counterparts and the Zairean military, which is an army only in name.

Thrown into the mix is a bizarre group of renegades who fight naked, believe they can turn bullets to water and who show no loyalty to any cause but their own.

Laurent Kabila, the guerrilla leader, draws together a jumble of uneasy partners under the umbrella of his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. It has seized large parts of eastern Zaire, including the regional capital, Goma.

Mr Kabila's own movement, from the southern province of Shaba, figures prominently. So do guerrillas from neighbouring Kasai, led by André Kissasse Ngandu who is thought to be the alliance's military mind.

But there is little love lost between Shaba and Kasai after the ethnic cleansing of about 1 million Kasais from Shaba three years ago. And while both men say they have no intention of breaking up Zaire, support for insurgencies in each of their provinces has largely been driven by demands for secession.

The alliance also draws together guerrillas from the

border regions around Rwanda and Burundi, where the fighting began. Also included are the Banyamulenge — Zairean Tutsis who rebelled to defend themselves from state-sponsored persecution.

According to Mr Kabila, the murder and ethnic cleansing of the Banyamulenge provided the foundation for the uprising and his rebels' astonishing success in the past month. But he has his own reason to resent Zaire's Tutsis. Mr Kabila was a follower of the revolutionary Pierre Mulele at a time when the Banyamulenge were fighting in support of the Zairean government to crush his rebellion.

The uneasiness of the alliance can be seen in belaboured decision-making and contradictory statements. One group agrees to let aid in, another blocks it. Mr Kabila says the rebels will hit the Hutu militias in the camps, Mr Kissasse says not. Mr Kabila says he is in charge, Mr Kissasse hints otherwise.

On the roadblocks around Goma there are signs that it might be someone else altogether. The "rebels" in the smart uniforms carrying the best equipment often speak English. Some are Zairean Tutsis driven from their homes by Hutu militia attacks in the past two years who have been trained and turned around to invade their own country.

The English-speakers are almost certainly members of the Rwandan army who grew up as Tutsi exiles in neighbouring Uganda or Tanzania.

One young "rebel" at a roadblock insisted — in perfect English — he was born and bred in Goma. He did not speak a word of French, Zaire's national language.

Mr Kabila and the Rwandan government continue to deny any collaboration. There



Boats loaded with refugees fleeing fighting arrive in Goma yesterday. Many others are waiting to leave as local people try to find a safe place to live. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER ANDREWS

are few in either Rwanda or Zaire who believe them. Some wonder how, after so many years of obscurity, Mr Kabila has suddenly proven so successful. For others the decisive evidence is the nature of the rebels' campaign which has concentrated on clearing the Rwandan refugee camps and Hutu militias which have used them as a base for cross-border raids.

Mr Kissasse says the refugees brought it on themselves. "What concerns us is not the refugees but to liberate Zaire. The refugees are on our national territory. They're armed, they participated in the attacks. We have to defend ourselves," he argued.

Confronting the rebel alliance is an assortment of forces. The Zairean army gave up early on. With defeat

looming, it routinely looted what it could and ran.

The defeated Rwandan army and Hutu militia, the Interahamwe, which fled into Zaire two years ago, have proved more resilient. Driven by a belief that they could one day reconquer their homeland, they have spawned new allies in Zaire.

One Hutu militia group — innocuously called the Vi-

runga Farmers and Herders Association — was founded in 1989 by Zaire's current education minister. The association targeted Zairean Tutsis, accusing them of being foreigners in an attempt to drive them from valuable land. When the Rwandan Hutu extremists fled into Zaire two years ago, the association came into its own. It joined the Interahamwe's huge eth-

nic cleansing of the Masizi region, north-west of Goma.

Thrown into the mix are the May May, who fight anyone who gets in the way of their pursuit of land. Their ideological roots are embedded in Mr Mulele's rebellion, but they have a strong faith in magic. May May recruits are tattooed to bolster their invincibility, they do not wash with soap and are forbidden

to have sex with women. Many fight naked or dressed with leaves. As they attack they shout "moy", Swahili for water, believing that it will turn enemy bullets to water.

They have shown little sympathy for the rebel alliance and its foreign allies.

Leader comment, page 8; No bloodless miracle, page 9

## Unpopular French could court more trouble

**Alex Duval Smith in Paris reports on concern that their presence could threaten the safety of soldiers from other countries**

**F**RANCE'S political and military record in Zaire and Rwanda means its peacekeepers will be targets of rebel fire and their presence could endanger the lives of troops from other countries, a high-ranking French military source admitted yesterday.

As a foreign ministry official indicated that France was offering between 1,500 and 2,000 troops to the multinational force, it became clear that military top brass have been lobbying for a smaller French contingent.

The high-ranking source said that while the French military "has nothing to be ashamed of" in the region, France is perceived as a supporter of Hutu extremists. "The Rwandans do not want us there, the Tutsi rebels have declared us a target... and we are in far greater danger than troops from other countries," he said.

He conceded that France "will be blamed if there are deaths among other peacekeepers or if the operation is discredited" and added that peacekeepers from African

countries which have close links with France — such as Senegal and Mali — could also become targets.

France has stronger political and industrial links with Zaire than with any other major African nation and its president, Mobutu Sese Seko, spends most of his time on the French Riviera.

Human Rights Watch, an international watchdog, believes Hutus from Rwanda were armed and trained by France while in exile in Zairean refugee camps. The French have been accused of using Operation Turquoise in the summer of 1994 as a cover for leading Hutus implicated in the Rwandan genocide to safety in Zaire.

President Jacques Chirac, who was the first Western leader to call for international intervention and who criticised the US for procrastinating, has ended up keen to play for time.

French military chiefs — who will deploy their rapid intervention force within 48 hours of the UN's approval — are now following closely the negotiations over the multinational mandate.

French fears that the US wishes to undermine its inter-

ventionist Africa policy have been allayed by the decision to place the multinational force under Canadian command — but only partially.

"There is a danger that French soldiers will be assigned to filling in pot-holes while the US base themselves at Goma and Entebbe," said one military source. "Uganda is a no-go area for France."

French military personnel could, however, play a crucial role in future negotiations over aid routes. UN food aid workers agree that to run convoys from Kisangani would be a logistical nightmare. The best route is thought to be through the rebel-held Kivu region.

While Kinshasa refuses to negotiate with these rebels because they are in breach of Zairean sovereignty, it is possible that France can put pressure on them to allow aid through.

But France's position remains complicated even when it is acting under an international banner. On Wednesday, a convoy from Médéric Saba Frontières came under fire from pro-Rwandan rebels when it attempted to enter Bukavu in Zaire.

## British troops may be used to disarm militias

**Ewan MacAskill and David Fairhall**

**T**HE British government indicated yesterday it may be prepared to go further than the US by allowing troops to be used to disarm militias in Zaire.

While the US has ruled out disarming the Interahamwe and said its troops will be confined to humanitarian aid, the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, told the Commons yesterday he was open-minded about action against the militias.

A British reconnaissance team of about 40 is to be sent to Zaire today to assess conditions on the ground before a decision is made on sending in a further force of battalion strength, about 1,000, composed of paratroopers and commandos.

The 45 Commando, 1st Paratroopers and 5 Airborne headquarters were put on increased alert for deployment yesterday.

Mr Portillo said: "The House will rightly ask why

Britain should become involved in a place far from our country and where no vital national interest is engaged. Because we are a civilised nation."

Mr Major, at Prime Minister's Question Time, said that while there was concern, there was also a strong moral obligation on Western governments to help.

protect itself against potentially hostile militias.

Mr Portillo set out the conditions for the mission: "That the objectives are clear and attainable; the prospects of handing on to a follow-up force are good; command and control are sufficient; and that British forces are sufficient and well enough armed to protect themselves and to save lives."

The mood in the Commons on both sides was restrained, with concern expressed primarily about the benefits of providing aid for four months only to see a return to anarchy.

British defence planners believe that at least two lessons have been learned from the Bosnian operation. The multinational force should have a clear command structure, in this case headed by the Canadians (with subordinate contingents offered by the US, Britain, France, Italy and Holland) and there should be no need to refer back constantly to the UN. This will not be a "blue helmet" operation, though it is responding to a UN resolution.

### 'The House will rightly ask why Britain should become involved'

The reconnaissance team has been asked to report back by early next week on key questions posed yesterday by Mr Portillo in a statement to the Commons: what force is needed to secure an entry airfield; how many troops will then be required to reach outlying areas in need of aid; and what equipment and support must the force be given to

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## Memories of Congo disaster haunt mission

**Robert Reid in New York**

**T**HE United Nations tried intervention in Zaire 36 years ago, and the organisation suffered 250 deaths, including that of its secretary-general.

When the peacekeepers left four years later, the country was still unstable and governed by some of the same people who were in charge when they arrived.

That bloody experience in what was then known as the Congo taught a generation of future UN leaders the risks of trying to impose peace, and sparked a long-standing reluctance to use force.

The peacekeepers were sent in July 1960 to quell unrest that broke out as Belgian colonial rule ended.

At the time, it was the largest and most difficult UN had mounted. It would not attempt another such mission until 1991, when it intervened in the Balkans.

The Congo crisis erupted a few days after Belgium granted independence on June 30, 1960. African troops mutinied against



their Belgian officers and went on the rampage in the capital Leopoldville, now called Kinshasa.

Faced with chaos, the new prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, fired the Belgian officers and appointed a former journalist, Joseph Mobutu, as army chief of staff. Known as Mobutu Sese Seko, he is now president but has been in Europe for months undergoing cancer treatment.



Died... Ex-prime minister Patrice Lumumba was executed by Mobutu's men.

Belgian troops flew to the capital and restored order. But hatred for the Belgians was so intense that the UN agreed on July 14 1960 to send troops to replace them.

The mission was beset by problems from the beginning. A few days before the UN approved the force, the south-eastern province of Katanga (now called Shaba) rebelled and declared independence.

Thirty countries offered a



Died... Wanted in Congo for treason, Moïse Tshombe did not survive jail in Algeria.

Died... A plane crash claimed Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN secretary-general.

total of 19,800 troops. But many lacked equipment, weapons and ammunition. In the midst of the confusion, Mr Mobutu staged a coup against Lumumba and the president, Joseph Kasavubu, and installed a military junta.

The Soviet Union, which supported Lumumba, denounced the UN operation and demanded that the secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, resign.

Lumumba, who had been

under house arrest since the coup, slipped away from UN guards and tried to reach his base in a provincial town. But he was captured by Mr Mobutu's forces and executed a few months later. Six countries withdrew their troops in protest.

Six months into the mission, the Security Council for the first time authorised troops to use force if necessary to prevent civil war.

Slowly, they managed to disarm most groups, except the Katanga rebels led by Moïse Tshombe. The UN launched attacks to bring Katanga under government control.

But the fighting alarmed powerful governments, which began pressuring Hammarskjöld to negotiate an end to the conflict. On September 17 1961 he flew to Ndola in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, to meet Tshombe. But he was killed when his plane crashed near Ndola airport.

The war between the United Nations and Katanga rebels dragged on until Tshombe surrendered on January 17 1963. UN troops left the country in June 1964. — AP.

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# Spy dispute threatens to boil over

David Hoarst in Moscow

**R**USSIA yesterday demanded the immediate and unconditional release of a former KGB agent arrested in New York last month, saying the spy now could seriously threaten relations between Moscow and Washington.

The dispute over the arrest of Vladimir Galkin at Kennedy Airport in New York on October 29 has escalated from routine threats of retaliation to a major diplomatic offensive directed by the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, a former spymaster.

The Russians claim Mr Galkin, who made no secret of the fact that he was a Russian intelligence agent until 1992, was entrapped by the FBI.

According to the charges he faces in a federal court in Massachusetts, Mr Galkin offered an employee of the Data General Corporation \$30,000 (£20,000) for three reports on conferences and symposiums about the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Mr Galkin was working with an Indian national, Aluru Prasad, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was charged last year with trying to obtain classified documents. Mr Prasad's case ended in a mistrial and he will appear in court again next month.

What has particularly incensed Moscow is that Mr Galkin, now a businessman,

made an open declaration of his former profession to the US consulate in Moscow and received a visa on the same day — October 24 — that the arrest warrant for him was issued in New York. The FBI is required to sign all visa applications by former KGB agents.

The Service of Foreign Reconnaissance (SVR), the successor to the First Directorate of the KGB, says Mr Galkin's arrest breaks a gentlemen's agreement between the spy networks of the former cold war adversaries not to prosecute each other's agents for deeds committed before the collapse of communism. But both the state department and the justice department in Washington have denied the existence of any such agreement.

At first the SVR said nothing, hoping to obtain Mr Galkin's release through diplomatic channels. Then it was suggested that the Russian embassy in Washington would stand bail for Mr Galkin. Now Russia is demanding nothing less than a full retraction from the justice department and is calling for all charges against Mr Galkin to be dropped.

Mr Galkin's wife, Svetlana, made an appeal on Wednesday for intervention from the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. "My husband always honestly fulfilled his duty to the motherland. That is precisely what the American special services are accusing him of," she said.



Water rushed down the side of the dam at the Verzasca storage lake, Ticino canton, southern Switzerland, where safety outlets had to be opened to prevent flooding after heavy rains in recent days raised the level of the lake. PHOTOGRAPHER: KARL MATTHEIS

# Serb's box-office hit addresses war guilt

Julian Borger in Belgrade

**T**HE film *Lepa Sela, Lepo Gore*, which will be premiered in Britain on Wednesday at the London Film Festival, confronts the raw ugliness of the Bosnian conflict. The title means *Pretty Village, Pretty Flame* — an observation made by a member of a Serb volunteer gang as they burn, loot and murder their way across Bosnia in spring 1992.

The film, directed by Serb Srdjan Dragojevic, aged 33, has filled Belgrade cinemas with crowds of cynical and weary Yugoslav youth. It was largely ignored by the state, but the government made no effort to hinder its triumphal progress across the country and subsequent worldwide release.

"We expected political problems but they have not happened, because the film got so popular here. It would be really dumb for the authorities to try to stop people seeing it," said Dragan Bjelogrić, who stars as Milan, a young Bosnian Serb who is numbed by his side's atrocities but driven on by spite after his mother is killed by Muslims.

"The film has been so successful, he said, because Serbs are no longer prepared to accept the patriotic line that an honourable war was fought to defend Orthodox Christian culture from an Islamic threat. 'People are telling me that it is a hard film to watch, but a necessary one,' he said.

It is an allegorical tale, loosely based on a true story, about a group of Serb

soldiers trapped in a tunnel for eight days during the early days of the war. The film goes back in time to watch the tunnel being opened by socialist apparatchiks with the accompaniment of brass bands and speeches on brotherhood and unity — the increasingly empty rhetoric beneath which ethnic tensions were submerged.

Along with the Titoist dream, the tunnel gradually falls into disrepair watched by Milan and Halil (a Muslim) who grow up as

'People are telling me that it is a hard film to watch, but a necessary one'

friends nearby. Neither dares to enter the tunnel that a monster lives inside.

When war breaks out, they find themselves on opposite sides. Milan is trapped in the tunnel with his Serb marauders and an American journalist, Halil and his Muslim troops have them surrounded. Before they are picked off one by one, the Serbs have time to ponder the shallow chauvinism which drove them to fight their neighbours.

At one point, Gavra, a burly unreconstructed nationalist, pulls out a fork, and proudly declares that cutlery was being used at the Serb court while the rest of Europe and America were eating with their hands.

Bookish Petar tells Gavra to shut up, pointing out: "It's your fork that got us into this mess in the first place."

No one has dared to show

the film in Zagreb or Sarajevo, where wounds are still raw. Benjamin Filipovic, a Muslim film-maker, praised it as "great cinema", but argued that it was made by Serbs for Serbs.

Critics say it ducks the question of who started the war, assigning responsibility to the metaphorical monster of nationalism lurking in Tito's tunnel.

This moral ambivalence arguably resembles the new line on the war taking shape in Belgrade and may explain why the film emerged unopposed by the censors, and why it was supported by the mayor of Visegrad, a Serb-held Bosnian town which was the scene of atrocities against Muslims in 1992.

A mosque was needed for one scene, but all the mosques in the Visegrad area had been blown up in ethnic cleansing. The crew had to build a mock-up, provoking outrage among the local Serbs until they were assured it would be burned down in the film.

The combat scenes were shot near Visegrad in spring 1995 while Serb troops — who appear as extras — were preparing for a final assault on nearby Muslim enclaves.

"The film says we are all bad guys, let's forget about it and go for a beer together," Mr Filipovic said. "So, just because it is a well-made and artistic film, it is as dangerous as a whole brigade."

The United States could provide up to a third of a 30,000-strong peacekeeping force to remain in Bosnia next year, Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, said yesterday after meeting the vice-president, Al Gore.

# Crash flight cargo pilot cited as 'first-class'

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

**T**HE Kazakh pilot of the cargo plane that crashed into a Saudi jumbo jet was a "first class" flier who was being made a scapegoat for the world's worst mid-air collision, a Russian diplomat said yesterday.

Sergel Kamenev, who is helping embassy officials from the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan investigating Tuesday's disaster near New Delhi, said the pilot, 39, angrily defended the pilot's record. He said the pilot had logged hundreds of flights and was fluent in English.

"The head of the crew, Cherbrenpanov, is a pilot of the first class 349 times, approximately 14 trips just to India, we discovered from the

log book," Mr Kamenev said. "It is not possible to consider him as a reason for the air crash, according to our investigations, the equipment of the Indira Gandhi International Airport has no radar station. It is not enough."

Indian civil aviation officials have tried to pin the disaster on a communications failure with the Kazakh pilot, or equipment failure on a poorly maintained plane. "It is 100 per cent pilot error," said S. S. Panesar, director of flight safety at Indian Airlines. "We pilots do make mistakes sometimes."

The real cause of the disaster will not be known until the judicial inquiry completes its task in two weeks.

The first funerals were held for 91 crash victims yesterday, presided over by Muslim, Hindu and Christian clergy, in Charhki Dabri, the

closest town to the barren fields where both aircraft came down in burning chunks of rubble.

Among them was Adila Fatima, aged four months, was buried alone, in a tiny plot alongside two 40ft-foot trenches in the town's Muslim graveyard.

Most of the Indian passengers were Muslim, according to the names on the passenger list. Relatives of those whose bodies have not been identified want to delay the cremations so they may provide a funeral according to Islamic rites. Hindus cremate their dead, while Muslims bury theirs.

The bodies of the 39 victims aboard the Kazakh flight, mainly Kyrgyz nationals, are to be flown to Chirchik in Kazakhstan in zinc boxes for identification and funeral rites.

# Asian revellers keep it strictly ballroom

Seth Mydans in Manila

**W**HAT was the former Senator Rene Saguisag, doing on the dance floor of Manila's Inter-Continental Hotel, twirling a woman who is not his wife through the rapid paces of a tango?

"It's exquisite!" exclaimed the former senator, once the chief spokesman for Corazon Aquino during her improbable rise to the presidency of the Philippines. "It's good clean fun and we've lost a lot of weight."

Mr Saguisag's wife, Dulce, who like her husband is in her 50s, was not far away, gliding across the floor with a man half her age — another addict of a ballroom dancing craze sweeping through Asia. "My wife loves me a million more times when I take her out dancing," Mr Saguisag said. "But we rarely dance with each other; we both have excellent dance instructors."

No one seems sure how the ballroom dancing fad began, but in the last two or three years it has undergone regional adaptations, taking on different forms in various countries as it works its way into the dominant local culture, adapted itself around the colour of different national cultures and including everything from the tango to the swing.

In China, people hop off their bicycles on the way to work to do a few dance turns among early-morning practitioners of tai chi in Beijing parks and on the Shanghai Bund. The China Daily recently suggested that dance

classes could divert young people from premarital sex.

Millions dance in Japan — where ballroom dancing has been regimented into a 12-tier ranking system — inspired by a sentimental Japanese movie about a office worker who finds meaning in his drab life on the dance floor.

Dancing comes with dim sum at Ocean City Restaurant in Hong Kong and draws celebrities to Paul Bishop's Academy of Dance.

In Thailand the venue is Lumpini Park in Bangkok, where there is already talk of medals at the Olympic Games

It is liberated role reversal in a land where men more often play hooky to visit their mistresses

In 2000, when ballroom dancing will be a new event.

And in Singapore, the authorities have added ballroom dancing to wine tasting and tennis as an appropriate activity for government-run matchmaking clubs.

But nowhere is ballroom dancing bigger than in the Philippines, where "people power" and coup attempts are things of the past. Morning, afternoon and evening in discos, living rooms and stadiums, Filipinos are dancing. They gather under the palm trees in Luneta Park when the born-again Christians are not holding a rally.

At the Western Police District, officers have even been ordered to dance to keep fit — and they foxtroled through the headquarters with their pistols at their belts. But ballroom dancing is biggest here among middle-aged and elderly women who leave their husbands at home — sometimes surreptitiously to samba and jive.

It has spawned the fast-expanding profession of dance instructor, mostly among athletic young men who carry beepers and maintain stables of loyal clients.

In the early days, when the respectability of their pastime was still in question, the rich matrons of the Sparklers Society at the exclusive Polo Club introduced their dance escorts as their attorneys, and the term stuck. Ballrooms were filled with middle-aged women swooping and dipping into the arms of their young attorneys.

Now everybody does it, and the dance instructors are known everywhere by straightforward initials, Dis. Female Dis are available as well, mainly for liberated men like Mr Saguisag who accompany their wives to the ballroom.

Throughout the country, discos and nightclubs have converted to ballroom dance spots, and many of them have afternoon hours for those wives who slip out to "go shopping" and must be home in time to make dinner.

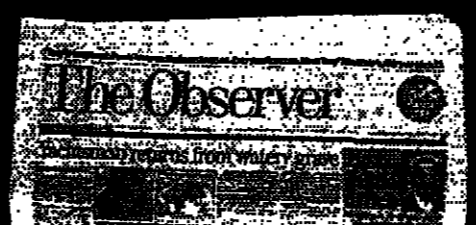
For once it is a liberated role reversal in a country where men often play hooky to visit their mistresses. And the excuses tend to be the same: a birthday, a wedding, a wake. —New York Times.

# World leaders

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The Guardian The Observer



Stumbling into Zaire

Africa must help to solve its own problems

ZAIRE'S escalating humanitarian crisis has hit the headlines again because Bill Clinton's tentative "yes" to a multinational force has been followed by a solemn pledge from Britain and a dozen other countries already prepared to serve under Canadian command. Hectic diplomatic activity can be expected over the next few days as the force is cobbled together. Many questions remain about its mandate and size, and the only certainty is over what most governments involved are so far insisting they will not do: confront and disarm the extremist Hutu interahamwe militiamen holding hundreds of thousands of their fellow-countrymen hostage in the disease-ridden refugee camps of eastern Zaire.

Mr Clinton's position is unlikely to change: the US, without which there would be no intervention at all, is still traumatised by the experience of Somalia and reluctant to be sucked into any central African "quagmire" when there is no "strategic" interest at stake: its spy satellites do not even routinely pass over the Great Lakes region, so there is real ignorance in western capitals about exactly what is happening on the harsh volcanic terrain.

What is clear is that the interahamwe — who carried out the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and yesterday vowed to fight foreign troops — cannot be ignored. One answer could be for a multinational contingent larger than the 10,000-20,000 strong force under discussion and more ambitious plans than securing Goma airport and re-establishing security along highways which could then be used to deliver aid.

But even if the Rwandan extremists could be disarmed and separated from the rest of the refugees, aid organizations would find it hard to avoid setting up permanent camps, deeper inside Zaire, like the ones that helped create the current crisis: it is a vicious circle

that could be impossible to break. Conscience and a sense of common humanity, as expressed by Michael Portillo in the Commons yesterday, are not bad motives. Catherine Bertini, of the World Food Programme warned this week that within a month 80,000 children in eastern Zaire will die, 50,000 more children suffer severe malnutrition and 75,000 more succumb to dysentery and cholera. But she also made clear that without separating "the bad guys with the guns from the people who need to live today," little can improve.

Perhaps it is compassion fatigue, perhaps just the relative lack of access for TV cameras, but public outrage does not seem to be driving this crisis as it has previous ones. Yet governments which scorned the "something must be done brigade" over Bosnia seem to be stumbling into something they have not thought through, despite insisting on the need to avoid an open-ended and ill-defined mission.

Other problems are secondary: some mourn the merely supporting role being played by the United Nations as yet another multi-national coalition lurches into action — even though some participants, especially France, will not be welcomed by Africans whatever colour their helmets.

The four months allowed by the US and Britain may turn out to be far too short a time to make a real difference: this will not be just a quick fix to re-establish the food chain. It is an ironic coincidence that this force is being born exactly as many of the governments involved haggle over a post-Nato follow-on to keep the shaky peace in Bosnia. It is hard to see clearly in the confusion of this appalling and complex crisis, but one positive by-product could be a greater role for Africa, especially post-apartheid South Africa, in solving the problems of a continent whose prospects have rarely seemed so dark.

Aiming for the wrong target

The inflation worth fretting over is the rise of the pound

THE IDEA that yesterday's inflation figures are proof of a fresh surge of inflation fully justifying the decision to raise interest rates is ridiculous. Sure, the statistics — showing a rise from 2.1 to 2.7 per cent in the annual rate during October — give pause for thought; but only a very short pause. Inflation in October was actually zero. Prices did not increase at all — hardly a moment of crisis. The annual increase is explained by a fall of 0.53 per cent at the same time last year which affected the 12-monthly comparison. If there is a price explosion where is it coming from? During the past year leisure goods, clothing, household services and fuel and light have all increased by one per cent or less (and in the case of clothing there was a decline). Food rose by only 2 per cent. The only large increases (6 to 7 per cent) were in tobacco and motoring, both affected by budget increases in excise duties.

Average earnings are rising at 4 per cent, only 0.35 per cent higher than two years ago — hardly volcanic considering that the economy has been expanding for several years and ought to have been generating more incomes (not least through increased overtime working). Looking ahead the main worry is a rise of 44 per cent in crude oil during the past year. But the index of input prices (which includes oil) actually fell by two per cent over the year. Perhaps the Chancellor should just keep quiet about the oil rise while pocketing the increased tax revenues.

This is not to say that the situation isn't worrying because it is. It is beginning to look very worrying indeed. Not because of inflation but because of the Government's perverse reaction to what is happening. The pound has been rising strongly in recent months partly because sterling is regarded as a bit of a safe-haven currency and partly in expectation of higher interest rates. The Chancellor — against his better judgment — obliged this month with a rise which the international community regards as the first of a series. So money is piling into sterling with the result that the pound has now risen by 9.5 per cent against other currencies since the first week of August, thereby reversing much of the gain in competitiveness since Black Wednesday in 1992.

If this rise had been backed by an improvement in our competitiveness it would be welcome. But it is not. Our inflation rate, although not worrying, has been rising faster than most of our competitors without any offsetting rise in productivity. Wage costs per unit of output are increasing by 4.5 per cent a year in manufacturing — mainly because output hasn't yet revived. Nor will it if the Government acquiesces in the unjustified rise in sterling which will prevent industry from competing at home and abroad. We are in danger of running into a sterling crisis-in-reverse. The Chancellor could — and should — stop all this in its tracks by reversing his interest rate policy.

Reds in their beds

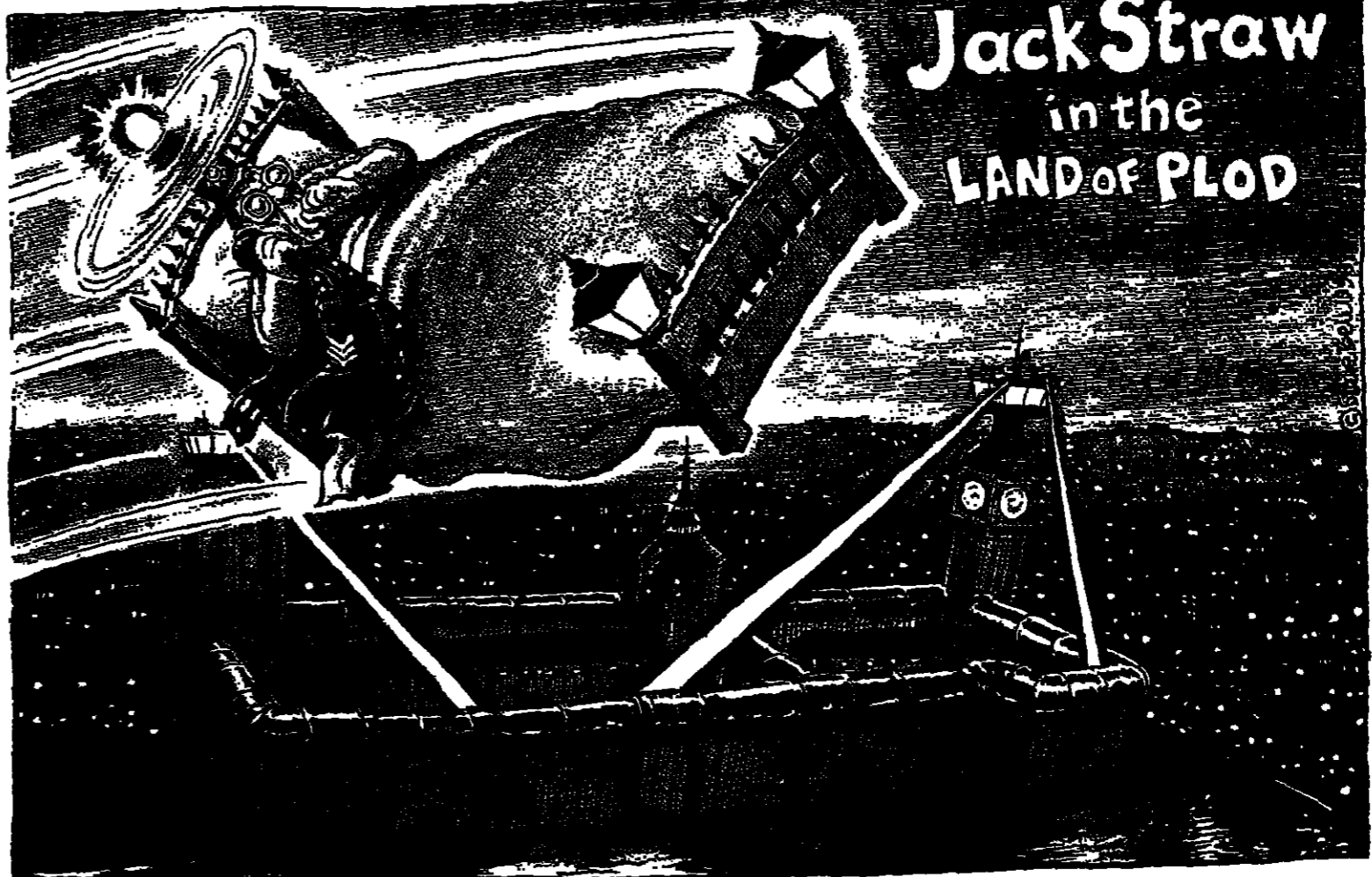
Labour has a bedtime policy: now it is lying in it

SHADOW home secretary Jack Straw is anxious to foster a debate about the time that children go to bed. Good. It's time that politicians started facing up to real issues. But where exactly does New Labour stand on the question of the great British bedtime? Here things are less clear. Mr Straw is good at producing sound bites about the need for public discussion but he is much less bold when it comes to details.

Mr Straw admits that until he was ten he used to have to climb the wooden hill to Bedfordshire at 8pm, although he remained active under the covers — listening to Hancock's Half Hour he says. But he absolutely refuses to be drawn on New Labour's detailed bedtime plans. The party's focus groups are apparently unhappy about going to bed early, so until the election no time will be mentioned. Only after Labour gets into office and examines the bedtime it has inherited from the Conservatives

will there be a definite commitment to an actual bedtime. And even then there is no promise of legislation.

For true socialists this is ominously familiar. It suggests that though Labour is committed in principle to a radical bedtime policy, in practice there will still be one bedtime for the privileged and another for the rest of us. Harriet Harman has already hinted that she will send her children to bed at a time of her own choosing, irrespective of party policy, and Tony Blair's office is promising he will ignore a conference commitment to a specific figure. There is a further danger that Labour will talk tough about bedtime but capitulate to a Brussels diktat. A European bedtime directive, riding roughshod over the sovereignty of British parents and imposing Spanish-style late bedtimes on British children, cannot be ruled out. Surely Labour can tell the voters a better bedtime story than this?



Letters to the Editor

On monetary disunion

ONCE again you dredge up that old-fashioned and ambiguous concept, "sovereignty" (Sceptics left in the cold over EMU, November 13). The fundamental issue posed by EMU is the diminution of democracy and the powers of democratic governments which it entails.

A single European currency would mean the transfer from a democratically elected British government to a Central Bank of the power to set interest rates, to control the money supply and to pursue price stability. The government would also lose the power to adjust the parity of its currency and face severe limitations on its power of public borrowing.

Those who support the principle of a single currency are implicitly asserting that the transferred powers are too fundamental to the working of a competitive market economy and too important to be trusted to democracy. Rt Hon Dennis Davies MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

would prevent necessary investment in the UK economy by a potential Labour government. But a change of economic creed implicitly underpins Brown's refusal to "import job-threatening legislation" as revealed by his critical focus on the Social Chapter, once the sole saving grace of the Community in Labour's eyes. New Labour, like the Tories, now believes in the bargain-basement economy we've come to know all too well: long hours, low wages, screwdriver employment imported from elsewhere, short contracts, non-unionised labour and a commitment to health and safety.

The "tiger" economies of the East, which both main UK parties claim to admire, built their growth on the productive investment of savings. Britons need to earn more in order both to save more as a proportion of national income and, at the same time, be better consumers. But the new British political consensus requires us to remain a cheap-labour opportunity for overseas industry with no long-term hope of economic regeneration.

Simon Kyle, 41-43 Sea View Road, Shoeburyness, Southend on Sea SS3 9DX.

ain has won 40 per cent of internal investment in Europe not because of an intrinsically healthy economy, but because of more favourable conditions for companies relative to conditions in other European states. This means that Britain plc has a clear interest in the continuing absence of EU social directives from which it alone is exempt.

But the absence of any shared international legislation limiting the exploitation of workers would also have the following result: working conditions would steadily deteriorate as governments competed against each other to create the most attractive environment for profit-seeking investors. This is why common social policy across the EU is indispensable.

Finn Bowring, 5 Ladysmith Avenue, Sheffield S7 1SF.

Striking a few more blows in the continuing battle of the sexes

CATHERINE Bennett's article on wife-beating (Commentary, November 13) misses the point: domestic violence is unacceptable not because police or social workers might enter a woman's house, uninvited, but because domestic violence is a crime of assault against women.

Many women simply do not have the economic resources just to walk out of violent relationships. The few women's refuges that exist are underfunded and overstretched. The shortage of council housing means that women looking for temporary accommodation are often offered bed-and-breakfast. If the man is also the breadwinner, even women from wealthy families may not have enough of their own money just to walk out.

Why Sheryl Gascoigne has not prosecuted her husband is entirely her business. However, public opinion about Gazza is not as clear-cut as Catherine Bennett makes out: despite being picked for the England squad, he was booed by Glasgow Rangers fans after the revelations. (Cllr) Liz Davies, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD.

physical violence regardless of the situation? If so, then I can be categorised as someone who had "attacked" a partner with a very hard slap in the face. He and a male friend were drunk and had come to my student-room late at night. My partner offered my sexual services to his friend with no indication that I wanted or welcomed this.

I was, in my view, justified in seeing a real threat and responding as I did. The next day, my partner greeted me by saying, with hurt shock: "You hit me!" Could I be accused of battery if I struck the first blow? And if I did use force, could a case be made that I was prone to unilateral physical violence with the assertion of "she struck him first"? Name and address supplied.

WHEN argues that because no statistics have been gathered to measure the extent of female-perpetrated domestic violence, then it does not exist. Thirty years ago, no data existed which showed the extent or even existence of "wife-battering". Today the law, the police, government-welfare agencies and the public are sympathetic and responsive to battered women.

Now, when our (and many others') research shows that it is men whose abuse and mistreatment is being ignored and ridiculed by Whelan and other slaves to feminist dogma, it seems that it is too much to ask for society's tolerance in return. Will it take the same 30 years of suffering, injuries and death for people like Whelan to respond to the reality of "battered husbands"? (Dr) Sean Stitt, John Moores University, Barkhill Road, Liverpool L17 6BD.

An even broader church

THE Bishop of Rochester sees the "fragmentation of belief", symbolised by the public's growing interest in New Age ideas, as a threat to social stability (Neo-paganism "a threat to society", November 12). It is a sad society where people are not encouraged to explore their personal spirituality outside traditional frameworks. Given falling church attendances, surely the onus is upon the Church to broaden its outlook if it is to reflect the multi-faceted spiritual experience of the people it is supposed to serve. Julie Haviland, 19 Florida Drive, Exeter EX4 5EX.

IF I find a bit rich the Bishop of Rochester's warning against a "pick and mix" approach to religion, a rise in superstition and reliance on "all sorts of dubious things and exotic phenomenon". Christianity's various adherents can choose from a wide range of beliefs and exotic phenomena, including turning water into wine, transubstantiation (wine into blood), virgin birth, raising of the dead, angels... These make belief in the mystical properties of crystals and other New Age superstitions seem lightweight. Dave Wolstenholme, 41 Erridge Road, London SW19 3JA.

After the crash

THE MID-AIR collision over New Delhi needs to be seen against the general attitude of apathy and lack of strategic planning which symbolises almost every governmental department in India.

With the opening up of the Indian economy it was inevitable that air traffic would increase. Yet the Ministry of Aviation took its time to recognise the problem, although the Commercial Pilot's Association has consistently pressed the Indian government to modernise the antiquated system of air-traffic control. The government is right to order a judicial inquiry. But trusted to democracy, these same pilots were now able to fly out of their national borders and across international airspace, but their understanding of English is often limited and sometimes non-existent. While technical difficulties may be to blame in this case, it is surprising that we have not had more such incidents. Alexander Weir, Villa Louvigny, L-2101 Luxembourg.



It's just another eating disorder

THE apparent increase in unruly behaviour among schoolchildren, while undoubtedly largely of social origin, may involve another factor — diet. Professor Stephen Schoenthaler, of California State University, has shown that a change from a junk-food to a nutritious diet significantly improved behaviour in a number of young-offender institutions.

Related to these findings are data from the Hyperactive Children's Support Group showing an improvement in the behaviour of a good percentage of children when certain colours, flavours or preservatives are removed from their diets. Diets have certainly changed over the last 20 years. Many young people appear to subsist on a diet of Coca-Cola, chips, burgers, pizzas and sweets rich in additives. Few

eat good amounts of fruit and vegetables, the sources of many vital micronutrients. Some schools already provide excellent meals; but should we not give priority to providing nutritious meals with a high component of whole foods, fruit and vegetables and fruit juice in every school? For a good number of schoolchildren, who already leave home without breakfast, this may be their only satisfactory meal of the day. Such nutritious meals do not cost more to provide yet may have significant benefits in reducing unmanageable behaviour in our schools. (Dr) Margaret Rayman, Department of Chemistry, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.

The BBC bosses write back

WE want to reassure all members of the creative community, including the Writers' Guild membership (Letters, November 13), that the formation of the two new Broadcast/Production directorates in the BBC is designed to strengthen our relationship with writers, artists and contributors, not to undermine it. Our experience as channel controllers across BBC radio and television has proved to us how difficult it can be to fulfil the increasingly complex functions of commissioning and scheduling — while still devoting sufficient creative energy to nurturing the talent base that serves BBC

programming. The BBC's programme achievements in recent years, acknowledged by both popular and critical acclaim, are a tribute to the flourishing partnership between the BBC and its contributors. We are determined to build on this. Digital technology will support this mission, not divert us from it. Alan Yentob, Director of Programmes, Michael Jackson, Director of Television, Matthew Bannister, Director of Radio, BBC, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: The gales last week brought down a venerable oak tree which fell across the lane to a local farm. The trunk had to be sawn and dragged aside and I was interested to see that in its rotted interior a hive of bees had once swarmed. Several old combs still hung perpendicular, fixed to the innards of the trunk. Bee combs consist of waxen cells constructed by the workers for storing honey and as cradles for the young. The deceased tree made me look afresh at others in our village, some of a prodigious height. There were several which lost rotted limbs in the storm. A local beekeeper has brought me a lot of honey this year, in bar frames so that I can fill my jars. Early collections were predominantly from oil-seed rape fields and this honey cannot be kept beyond a month or two before becoming very waxy when it becomes unsuitable for toast or scones. I use it to spread on roasting meat. None is wasted in this kitchen. Last month the door bell rang and there

was my bee man friend again, this time with two bar-frames of heather honey. "I have had them on the moors at Hopley," he told me. Delicious golden combs, we have enjoyed them. When the beekeeper went up to collect his hives there was a small toad only 2 inches long sitting in front of one of them, nicely placed to catch any bee coming out. "It was very conspicuous by the stomach full of my bees." "Did he kill it? No," he said, he hadn't the heart to do that to a toad. He admitted that they are a pest when they find a hive, but they chiefly eat the old or diseased bees. It is not only toads which rob swarms but occasionally also hedgehogs. "Once my bees swarmed under, instead of inside the hive," my friend told me. "I saw a hedgehog wade straight into the swarm, sticking its head in the middle of a moving mass of bees and then backing out again, munching and swallowing. If I hadn't chased it off, the beastie would have had another go." VERONICA HEATH

صوتنا من الاجل



Diary  
John Duncan

MORE news of visionary Conservative marketing strategy. Less politically astute readers may not immediately understand why Elisabeth Peacock MP should send a questionnaire to her enthusiastic younger constituents that is completely illiterate. But we are on to you, Mrs Peacock. Total gibberish is the only language young people understand after 17 years of Conservative education policy. Constituents are asked to answer yes or no to several questions. Among them: "The introduction of more apprenticeships would be helpful." Is this some sort of scheme to train young people how to have relationships? It gets worse. "John Major's demand for more sport in schools is a good idea." How many John Majors are there, Mrs P? Keep going. "More consideration should be given to the victims of crime and punishment. Courts should be tougher on offenders. Yes./No x." Maybe it's supposed to be a poem? It was Mrs Peacock who believed that the Lottery programme on primetime TV. With the lead piping in the conservatory, no doubt. Mrs P will doubtless want to show her commitment to public flagging by agreeing to our request that she be spanked live on Blue Peter for her sins against the English language.

BWOYED by the massive reader response to our Lyne News diary buy-up we have negotiated a sensational royal exclusive. After long discussions with the Wessex Journal, you can read the exciting Queen Mother exposé only in the Diary. Here we go. "Gert (real name Edward) was a smart old gent with brilliant hair and just a hint of blusher on his wrinkled cheeks. His partner Daisy (real name Horace), was a roly-poly party who camped it up. For almost 30 years Gert had been an under-butler and Daisy a pastry chef at Clarence House. "One hot summer night," said Gert, "the household was in bed. I was entertaining Horry in my pantry and all was right with the world. Bliss. Then the internal telephone shrilled. It was 2.15am. I picked up the receiver and of course it was the Queen Mum. "I don't know what you two old queens are doing down there," she said, "but this old Queen can't sleep and is in urgent need of a very large gin and tonic." "Ma'am we salute you."

SO where do you reckon the intelligence services get all their best stuff from? Telephone taps? High-level informers? Secret agents? Or none of the above? It appears in fact that they spend their days reading the Big Issue. Following an entirely spoofed article by self-styled "art terrorist" Stewart Home describing how he was kidnapped and shown an arsenal of weapons at the home of the IRA Foundation money-burner-in-chief Jim Cauley, Mr Cauley's abode was put under police surveillance for several days. Not long after, it was raided by 30 officers who searched the place from top to bottom and found nothing except two Saracen armoured cars which Mr Cauley keeps in his garden so as not to be underdressed at local road protests. Both are properly taxed and insured. Mr Cauley was released without charge.

WE can at last reveal the Home Office's most ambitious privatisation-of-prisons scheme yet. HMP Wormwood Scrubs is being turned into the world's first cinema and anti-pornography theme park and serving prisoners are being secretly recruited to help publicise the venture. The evidence? There is only one card available in the prison shop at the moment. The picture is of the Scrubs gate, with the slogan "Wish you were here" emblazoned across the top. Overleaf the small print states: "HMP Wormwood Scrubs. Spacious en suite accommodation. Full bar. Choice of menu (take it or leave it). Cheap rates (court warrant required only). Friendly staff." Book through your local police station.



When focus groups can be hocus-pocus

Commentary  
Peter Preston

IT WAS, I thought, the deadliest insult of the week. "Oh, Tony Blair," said one powerhouse of the Conservative re-election campaign, "he's just a creature of the focus groups." With a curl of the lip and a single, transferable wince. These groups aren't about focus groups. They're commonplace in the marketing world, the selling flavour of the decade. Newspapers (this one included) use them all the time. Political parties are naturally hooked. But most journalists — let alone readers or voters — have only the haziest notion of the facts behind the phenomenon.

These groups aren't conventional polls. No random samples of 1,500 interviewed over 24 hours. Polls, like newspaper circulation figures, can tell you broadly what's going on — and maybe give a few clues why. (It's the economy, stupid.) But focus groups have become the proactive

heart of the process. Each party has its target swing voters and its regional imperatives. It knows who it has to win over and who it has to stop being won over. But people, selected with infinite care, make up the focus panels. They don't, in any meaningful sense, vote themselves; they discuss. A professional interlocutor plays master of ceremonies. The spin doctors huddle behind a two-way mirror. It's the mood of the meeting that counts.

You can, very straightforwardly, test posters or TV party politicals this way. New Labour, New Danger? Do the groups of swingers give it a thumbs up? Do they, lightly prompted, think that Clare Short was right — that there is indeed a platoon of sinister manipulators lurking behind Tony Blair's smile, ready to make a puppet of him in government? If they do, you may be on to something. In just the same way, wider policy areas can be probed from the polls and dissected. Take constitutional reform. Is it a wot far beyond Highgate? What does Newcastle think of it?

There's nothing rigidly scientific about this approach. Panels will sometimes agree spontaneously with a proposition, sometimes not. The messages are usually nuanced. But focus groups, carefully interpreted, can give a strong steer. They are the best stab at the future on offer. Here's

Jump Euro-ship altogether and sound as John Bullish next May as Mr Major himself intends to.

But the first question, of course, isn't where Labour is shifting to, but why it's shifting at all. Clear enough answer: because the groups — slightly backed by the big polls — are thinking differently about Europe. And it's I think that the frailties of the whole exercise, the techniques and the messages drawn, begin to show. The European Court drama was set-piece staging. The Government knew it was going to lose. It let John Major and his secret briefers loose ahead of time to stroke up the tension. It assumed that, on this issue at least, the bulk of the press would come running. If the spectre of Brussels could somehow be yoked together with jobs and prosperity, then a vital trick might be turned. They'll have run that trick through their own focus panels.

Focus groups, interpreted, can give a strong steer. They are the best stab at the future on offer

els. Labour will have done the same. There are two things wrong with this. One is the assumption that the meat of politics, as opposed to the packaging, can suitably be left to small groups of people sitting in non-smoking rooms. That unbalances the process. But the second glitch is even more perilous. Focus groups are as much art as science. They are not ultimate juries. Their inevitably fudgy verdicts depend

heavily on the facts and propositions fed to them. Their findings (in politics as in business) provide only hints and clues. They initiate nothing. Take two easy examples from recent history. The groups didn't invent our Saturday Guide four years ago. They merely gave it the most positive thumbs up I can ever remember. They facilitated the investment which made it possible. When, however, we tried to invent another bit of the paper (based on a very clear focus-group prescription), it was a total flop. After they got what they said they wanted, they didn't want what they wanted at all. The results, in short, are only as good as the ideas and the visions you feed in. The groups, by themselves, produce neither. Their work is useful, but inert.

What my scathing Conservative meant was that Labour was falling back in anxiety, on this low common denominator of inertia — giving the groups a veto, tacking to please. Perhaps he's right. There is no current attempt to feed European ideas or vision into the act. There is a telling reluctance to pick up issues (like sledge, since you ask) where the groups declare a general state of disillusion across all parties — rather than blaming one alone. The Tories have the perverse advantage of having to sell what they've got. Labour is lumbered with the cross of endless options.

Was it an insult? Was it a shiver of apprehension? Does Central Office secretly wish it could make any pitch to its voters and forget the incubus of real life? I can't put that in focus. But — as delivered — it certainly sounded like an insult; it certainly sounded as though it was saying that Labour was a really great thing to be, Bel," she tells me, with that sympathetic look in her eyes. "There's no need to feel embarrassed about it. I envy you, truly I do. You know, sometimes I still bear the scars of my beauty."

Not to worry, I tell her — my inner eye tells me that a few centuries after being an ancient Egyptian princess she enjoyed the privilege — and, believe me, it is a privilege — of living as an embittered bearded fishmonger in a hovel on the outskirts of East Croydon. "Just think of the unique insight you will have gained into the lives of others in a similar position!" I enthuse. Happily, we both know that as, respectively, the founder of the Body Shop and a much-loved award-winning columnist on the Guardian, we're as high up the human scale as we can possibly be. Next stop? Nirvana.

As I say, I'm too serious a person, too committed to my fellow human beings, to wholly believe in the mumbo-jumbo dished up to the weak and the gullible by the established "religions" of this world. I think I first realised I was nearly half atheist when I met Professor Richard Dawkins just before we went into the Start The Week studio. "I can see you're an atheist just like me, Bel," he said, looking long and hard at my palm with the impartial stare of the true scientist. "And then this

Me? I believe in New Labour and New C of E



Bel Littlejohn

RELIGION is the flavour of the month. "Neopaganism a threat to society" ran the headline in Tuesday's Guardian. "Bless it, Me?" I'm not one to be taken in by superstitions — and never will be, touch wood. As an Aries, I'm a natural sceptic. Combine that with the fact that last night the tarot cards said I should beware of new faiths, and you'd understand why I'm dead against hooking myself to the first crazy new belief that comes along. Which is not to say I'm not deeply religious, because I am. I've spent countless hours exploring my spirituality with my good friend Anita Rodick. Bless her. Between the two of us we've discovered we've both lived many times before. Anita believes she was a beautiful ancient Egyptian princess in a previous life, pampered every day by myrds of servants with Peppermint Foot Lotion and Vanilla Elbow Rub. On the other hand, Anita's convinced that I was once an overweight Lancashire housewife plagued by corns. "But that's a really great thing to be, Bel," she tells me, with that sympathetic look in her eyes. "There's no need to feel embarrassed about it. I envy you, truly I do. You know, sometimes I still bear the scars of my beauty."

AND from this deep-seated interest in religion — with or without a capital "r" — springs our present need to confront the moral health of the nation. Confidentially, I can reveal that many of my colleagues in New Labour have been looking to me, with my special understanding of the planets and their workings, to work out how to draw people back to established religion. I have been greatly helped by Jack Christian, whose belief in organisational capability derives from his once having been a Rear Admiral in Nelson's fleet at Waterloo. Together, Jack and I are examining ways to reactivate the faith of our young. For me, the first step is to nip into the Body Shop, buy a bottle of cruelty-free chocolate-and-almond hairspray and hard at my palm with the impartial stare of the true scientist. "And then this



Alex de Waal argues that there are strict limits to what the international force can achieve in Central Africa: they can protect civilians, but they can't prevent war

No bloodless miracle

IN CENTRAL Africa today, the main killers are guns, grenades and above all genocidal ideology. Hunger and disease are secondary factors. The central challenge of a political and humanitarian response in eastern Zaire is the continued presence of Hutu extremist forces, for whom human life has no value at all. These men and women murdered 800,000 Rwandese Tutsis in 1994, and, since their military defeat at the hands of the Rwandese Patriotic Front, have continued their campaign — albeit at a lower level — from relief camps in Zaire, fed by international humanitarian agencies. It is not possible to accommodate to these people: they must be removed from the political scene if there are to be any prospects for Central Africa. Trying to "separate" or "disarm" them is like trying to strip the claws off a tiger one by one: they will do the clawing first. When their atrocities — murders, mutilations and expulsions — had spread to engulf a wide swathe of eastern Zaire, the local people took up arms to resist. The extremists are fighting for a genocidal ideology that makes fascism seem moderate; their enemies are literally fighting for their lives.

For two and a half years, aid agencies have been calling for a "political solution" to the crisis in eastern Zaire, and for the dismantling of the camps. The Western powers did nothing. Now there is talk of "political processes" — and the agencies do not like it. They are saying that 1,000,000 will die in the coming weeks. If true, this would represent a mortality rate on a totally unprecedented scale; many times worse than the worst famine in Ethiopia at the worst of the famine in 1984 — and that was after several years of drought, war and deprivation. It would be quite without precedent in world history for such a calamity to strike a population until a few weeks ago relatively well fed. The agencies are the first to admit they do not know the scale of the problems, yet they confidently assert that donating to them can save 1,000,000 lives. This is irresponsible: to save 1,000,000 lives, it would be quite justifiable to abandon any political process. This would give no room for the kind of patient, tough political processes —

know their intentions as they have stated them clearly: to wipe out the Tutsis and their allies and achieve political supremacy in the region. A humanitarian response must balance the principles of providing sustenance to the needy with not giving the slightest support to those responsible for their plight. This means first, recognising that the war cannot be stopped. Unless the Zairensis rebels complete the job before the foreign troops arrive, the next round will merely be postponed, and the region will sink deeper into crisis. A ceasefire would be a chimera. Second, much can be learned from the experience of Europe in the 1940s, enshrined in three great documents of

international law: the Genocide Convention of 1948, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the Refugee Convention of 1951. All three should underpin humanitarian action; in fact, all three have been tossed aside in the last three years in the rush to provide visible solace to hungry people, no matter what the long-term implications. The Genocide Convention obliges us to prevent genocide and punish its perpetrators: this would seem to be incompatible with acknowledging their "humanitarian interests", as an intervention force would almost certainly do. The Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone

who has fled from a "well-founded fear of persecution". The inhabitants of Mungoma camp are not refugees under this definition: they are fugitives from justice or migrants. Most importantly, the Geneva Conventions put strict conditions on the delivery of humanitarian aid. Under Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, it is quite legitimate to block aid to a belligerent party if there is any reason to believe that aid may be diverted, may not be properly monitored or controlled, or even if feeding civilians will enable the belligerent to divert other resources to its war effort. These laws were not drafted by men and women who were callous or who wanted to see

extremists, does not believe the other has a right to exist? If we are not prepared to go and destroy the Hutu militias, we should not stand in the way of the people who are prepared to do so. On the humanitarian side the cross could do something useful. The whole area, including up to 3 million Zairensis, needs food. The troops should help to get the food economy moving again — through markets, not camps — and stay away from the refugees. There is one reason for optimism in this scenario. Africans are past masters at surviving famine. They never, never die in the numbers predicted by aid agencies. A more realistic appraisal of the likely death rates would put mortality in the low tens of thousands. This would be appalling, and much of it can and should be prevented. But it cannot be prevented by over-reaction. It is precisely that sort of low-standard, rushed aid effort that not only leaves itself open to political manipulation but tends to create conditions — such as huge camps — that exacerbate rather than relieve the situation. Above all, the more important task of preventing continuing political violence — that would claim hundreds of thousands of lives — cannot be achieved by an intervention conceived in ignorance and moral panic.



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10 OBITUARIES

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

Calming voice of Chicago

CARDINAL Joseph Bernardin, a senior prelate of the United States, who has died aged 68 of cancer, always introduced himself to parishioners, politicians and even popes as Joe Bernardin. He was one of the most accomplished and admired Catholic leaders of his generation.



Joe Bernardin... he had been regarded as a potential successor to John Paul II

from his archdiocese, he remained a popular figure there, as was seen when, in November 1993, he faced charges of sexually abusing a seminarian while Archbishop of Cincinnati. His accuser, Stephen Cook, demanded \$10 million in compensation.

Bernardin vehemently denied the crime and rejected advice to settle out of court to avoid scandal. It came at a time when a rush of cases of abusing priests had sapped the laity's confidence in the clergy, but the accusations against Bernardin were unanimously rejected by Chicago Catholics. Eight local law firms offered to defend him pro bono.

When, in 1988, for example, the Pope's chief theological adviser, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, attacked the work of the distinguished American academic, Father Charles Curran of the Catholic University of America, it was Bernardin who worked to broker a deal between Rome and Curran's supporters among the American bishops.

IN THE mid-1980s, when the Vatican became alarmed by Archbishop Raymondmundhausen of Seattle, an outspoken, pro-gay, anti-war liberal, Bernardin worked out a compromise and prevented an all-out battle between Rome and the local church.

Gerda Charles

Tea without the sympathy

IN 1971, we asked Gerda Charles, who has died at an age estimated at between 70 and 80, to dinner. She had recently won the Whitbread Prize for her novel, The Destiny Waltz.

Gerda Charles' real name was Edna Lipson. She was born in Liverpool but would never, ever reveal her age or give the slightest clue to it.

With a candour unusual in ecclesiastical circles, he went public about his cancer. The quiet courage with which he endured his last illness only reinforced an already formidable reputation.

Zold himself is a shy, bemused man living in a mess of a family. Gerda Charles then began writing for the Daily Telegraph, the Jewish Chronicle, the New York Times and the New Statesman.



She phoned to say thanks for the meal, but what boring middle-class guests we had invited. I was taken aback by the rudeness

normal life. After her mother died, she talked about a novel in progress, a second or third draft, how unreasonable publishers were, but she published nothing further.

Edna Lipson (Gerda Charles), novelist, date of birth unknown; died November, 1996

Gwen Catley

The soprano who never missed top E

GWEN CATLEY, who has died at the age of 90 - happily deceiving the reference books about her true age - was a coloratura soprano whose career spanned a wide variety of operatic and popular music.

As a singer, she was a genuine musician among singers. An accomplished pianist, she married a fellow student at the Guildhall, Allen Ford, subsequently a principal cellist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

John Steane

As a teacher, she was highly valued by professionalists who came to her with their technical problems. "Gwen can do it," Isobel Baillie used to say, and the reputation remained with her in advanced years.

Excursions of this kind, and perhaps the coloratura repertoire itself, rather obscured the fact that she was a genuine musician among singers. An accomplished pianist, she married a fellow student at the Guildhall, Allen Ford, subsequently a principal cellist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Gwen Catley, soprano, born February 9, 1906; died November 12, 1996

trouble, the voice itself retaining much of its firmness and purity. As a teacher, she was highly valued by professionalists who came to her with their technical problems.

Gwen Catley, soprano, born February 9, 1906; died November 12, 1996



Gwen Catley in the film Theatre Royal, 1943

Birthdays

Ed Asner, actor, 67; Howard Baker, US senator, 71; J G Ballard, writer, 67; John Banfield, chairman, Mobil Oil Company, 49; Daniel Barenboim, pianist, conductor, 53; Andrew Castle, tennis player, 33; Sir Geoffrey Chandler, chairman, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 74; Petula Clark, singer, 62; André Deutsch, publisher, 78; Prof Peter Dickinson, pianist and composer, 62; Dr Helen Dunmore, dramatist and women's campaigner, 70; Tibor Fischer, author, 36; Eddie Harvey, jazz musician, composer, 71; Paula Kahn, publisher, 66; Erling Lov, former ambassador to Estonia, 82; Anni-Frid Lyngstad, pop singer, 51; Tim Fears, writer, 40; Paul Raymond, impresario, 71; Sam Waterston, actor, 56; Kirsten Woodward, hat designer, 37.

Death Notices

EDMUND, On November 7th, Palestine of Carmel, died in London aged 85. Widow of Eric, member of Robert and grand-daughter of Sir John and Mrs. Emma.

WALLIN Tom - husband, father, grand-children. He died on November 12th in St. Berns hospital aged 47. Funeral at St. Berns Church, London W14 9PF, Wednesday 20th.

In Memoriam

MR HAYNES 2nd Blyth, who died 15.11.95. Beloved son and brother. Forever in our thoughts.

Memorial Services

EDWARD, James A. Service of Thornhill, died on Friday 9th December at 2.35pm in his 87th year.

Jackdaw



Twisted sister

LIFE IN this society being, at best, an utter bore and no aspect of society being at all relevant to women, there remains only to overthrow the government, eliminate the money system, institute complete automation and destroy the male sex.

Loopy laws

Alabama: 1. It is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a vehicle. California: 1. Community leaders passed an ordinance that makes it illegal for anyone to try and

stop a child from playfully jumping over puddles of water. Connecticut: 1. You can be stopped by the police for biking over 66 miles per hour. Florida: 1. Women may be fined for falling asleep under a hair dryer, as can a salon owner. 2. A special law prohibits unmarried women from parachuting on Sunday or she shall risk arrest, fine, and/or jail.

Alabama: 1. It is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a vehicle. California: 1. Community leaders passed an ordinance that makes it illegal for anyone to try and

2. Biting someone with your natural teeth is "simple assault", while biting someone with your false teeth is "aggravated assault". Illinois: 1. It is illegal for anyone to give lit cigarette to dogs, cats and other domesticated animals kept as pets. Kentucky: 1. By law, anyone who has been drinking is "sober" until he or she "cannot hold on to the ground". Massachusetts: 1. Mourners at a wake may not eat more than three sandwiches. 2. Snoring is prohibited unless all bedroom windows are closed and securely locked. Real laws in existence from the PoBox List, via Michael Jovic.

Miles apart

The Last Ten Things Any Man Would Ever Say: 1. I think Barry Manilow is one cool motherfucker. 2. While I'm up, can I get you a beer? 3. I think hairy butts are really sexy. 4. Her tits are just too big.

5. Sometimes I just want to be held. 6. That chick on Murder, She Wrote gives me a woody. 7. Sure, I'd love to wear a condom. 8. We haven't been to the mall for ages, let's go shopping and I can hold your purse. 9. Fuck Monday Night Football, let's watch Murphy Brown. 10. I think we are lost, we better pull over and get directions. The Last 10 Things Any Woman Would Ever Say: 1. Could our relationship be more physical? I'm tired of just being friends. 2. Go ahead and leave the seat up, it's easier for me to do what I want. 3. I think hairy butts are really sexy. 4. Hey, get a whiff of that one. 5. Please don't throw that old T-shirt away, the holes in the armpit are just too cute. 6. This diamond is way too big. 7. I won't even put my lips on that thing unless I get to swallow. 8. Does this make my butt look too small?

Pet paradise

FOR domesticated darlings burdened with life's hassles, there's an exclusive retreat to cocoon them in luxury. In Japan, pets aren't simply mollycoddled like spoiled offspring but idealised like gods. In the frenzied capital, Tokyo, cats can undergo breathing and relaxation coaching to improve sleep and boost fertility. On Kyushu Island, Idol Pet Hotel will cater to your beloved's every whim for \$200 a night. Moggies beset by stress and rheumatism are wrapped in a kimono and buried neck-deep in 40 degrees volcanic sand. If that doesn't do the trick, they can join in a yoga session. The hotel recently hosted the marriage of poodles Tara, in pearls and gold leather jacket, and Climbly, sporting her best hat. The newlyweds were showered with gifts of jewellery and treated to the finest cuisine. After the nuptials, they slipped into a perfumed bubble bath and spent their wedding night at the hotel. And what did the owners get? The bill for a cool \$4000. In Thailand, too, the deputy prime minister was recently a guest at the wedding of two cats that then took a honeymoon cruise down the river.

Russia's Salon Rich (the country's premier canine health club), poodles can be massaged, led around an exercise circuit by a personal trainer. On the other side of the world, in New Zealand, workers at Wellington's Telegraph and the telephone Company are entitled to time off with pay to care for a sick pet. Manager Andrew Deller says it's a common sense approach. "A dog or cat can be as dependent as a sick child." Closer to home, divine intervention is at hand for the pooch with a hang-dog expression. A German church has opened its doors to an assortment of pets. Organiser Horst Fischer, a member of the North German Kennel Club, believes the gatherings are crucial because, "animals are God's creatures, too". Cosmopolitan pet potness.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail Jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Emily Sheffield

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## GUS catalogues £1 bn deal

Lisa Buckingham

**G**REAT Universal Stores, the super-sective catalogue shopping group, yesterday burst onto the transatlantic takeover scene with a £1 billion agreed bid — its first major acquisition for more than 30 years.

The company is paying \$1.7 billion for Experian, one of America's biggest information service groups, which will be merged with CCN, its own consumer credit and business information subsidiary.

The impression I have got from the City is that they [shareholders] were not entirely happy at our accumulation of cash and our failure to find something to invest in... We have some half the way to satisfying them," he said.

Next, of which he is also chairman, was now off the cards. He hinted that, if cash is not absorbed by more acquisitions, the group would continue to increase dividends at the expense of dividend cover rather than giving dollops of unspent money back every three or four years.

Customers increasingly demand global service, said Lord Wolfson, who added that 30 per cent of CCN's existing clients were American corporations, such as McDonalds and Ford.

The joint business will account for between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of the GUS group's overall profit and will probably become the fastest growing part of the empire. Eventually, Lord Wolfson admitted, it may be spun off.

### Great Universal facts

- Britain's biggest retail order operator. Catalogues include: Great Universal, Kays, Choice and Marshall Ward
- Owns Burberrys, Scotch House and White Arrow Express
- Own high street property estate valued at £284 million
- Formed in 1977, has been run by just three people, all members of Wolfson family
- Recently reported 48th consecutive year of profits growth

### Notebook

## Cold-hearted example of greed



Edited by Alex Brummer

Few issues have caused more discomfort to John Major's government than the behaviour of the coteries of executives working in the privatised utilities.

First, although Lord Wolfson is only three months into the job and keen to bring the City on side, he is cautious — not on the GUS scale but by no means rash, as his track record at Next shows.

## MCI puts Murdoch stake on agenda

Nicholas Hammiter  
Technology Editor

**T**HE future of MCI's stake in Rupert Murdoch's media and entertainment empire is likely to be decided before the US telecommunications group completes its £12 billion merger with British Telecom.



It's profitable to talk... BT's finance director, Robert Brace (left), and chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, yesterday

problem. But he has emphasised that regulation would be required.

Brace said he expected to be in the tens of millions rather than hundreds of millions of dollars.

charges of £235 million. Nearly 3,200 staff took voluntary redundancy and a similar number are expected to go in the second half of the year, taking full-year redundancy costs to between £400 million and £450 million.

the first half of the current year virtually unharmed. BT said it had offset the losses to cable operators — thought to be running at about 50,000 customers a month — by winning new customers in a market which had been expanded partly by the demand for second lines to cope with

computers or fax machines. While the number of residential phone lines was unchanged year-on-year, the number of business lines grew by 5.4 per cent.

## Rebels triumph at Greycoat

Ian King

**G**REYCOAT, the property group, was yesterday snubbed by institutional investors as it tried to defeat moves by rival shareholders to force it into merger talks with smaller rival Moorfield Estates.

size of Moorfield — had faced calls for its break-up from Brian Myerson and Julian Tregan, whose Active Value fund controls 11 per cent of the company's shares.

stake will cost Scottish Widows, although as the subsidiary was worth £77 million at the end of 1995 and made a £15 million profit that year, it could be around £18 million.

bank, but no announcements are expected for a few months.

to stave off a predator. The organisation has undergone a significant revamp this year in an attempt to compete effectively in the overcrowded life and pensions market.

deal. And where does GUS decide to sharpen its expansionary

## Price check is all quiet on the Y-fronts

RICHARD THOMAS reports on deflating duties that produce the inflation figures

**A**T FIRST sight, Carol McDonnell looks like many other lunch-time bargain hunters, delving into the racks of clothes in a central London department store.

checked the previous month. "Actually it can be a bit boring. Usually, in fact."

of the 300 main collectors in the rest of the country, who work for Research International, are women.

of the 300 main collectors in the rest of the country, who work for Research International, are women.

## New means to aid motorists

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

**M**OTORISTS could soon get traffic information from a network of privatised regional traffic control centres aimed at relieving Britain's worsening roads congestion.

motorways and main trunk routes. They would collate travel information for direct transmission to motorists through local radio networks.

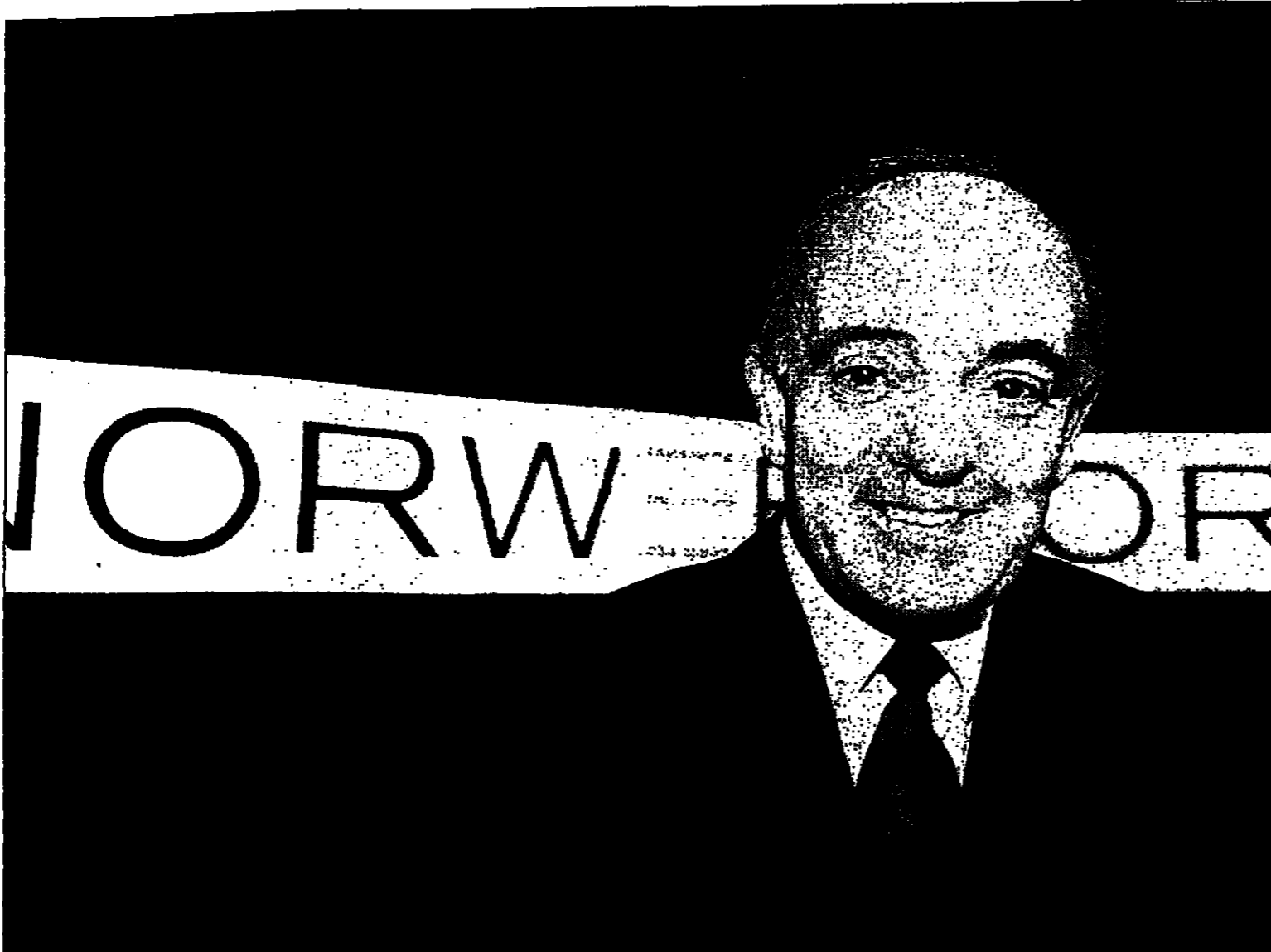
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Austria 17.09	Germany 2.43	Malta 0.5740	South Africa 1.66
Belgium 69.02	Greece 387.02	Netherlands 2.2725	Spain 234.85
Canada 2.1675	Hong Kong 12.55	New Zealand 2.2725	Sweden 10.86
Cyprus 0.7380	India 59.10	Norway 10.23	Switzerland 2.04
Denmark 2.57	Ireland 0.9700	Portugal 245.92	Turkey 154.00
Finland 7.47	Israel 5.34	Saudi Arabia 6.20	USA 1.6285

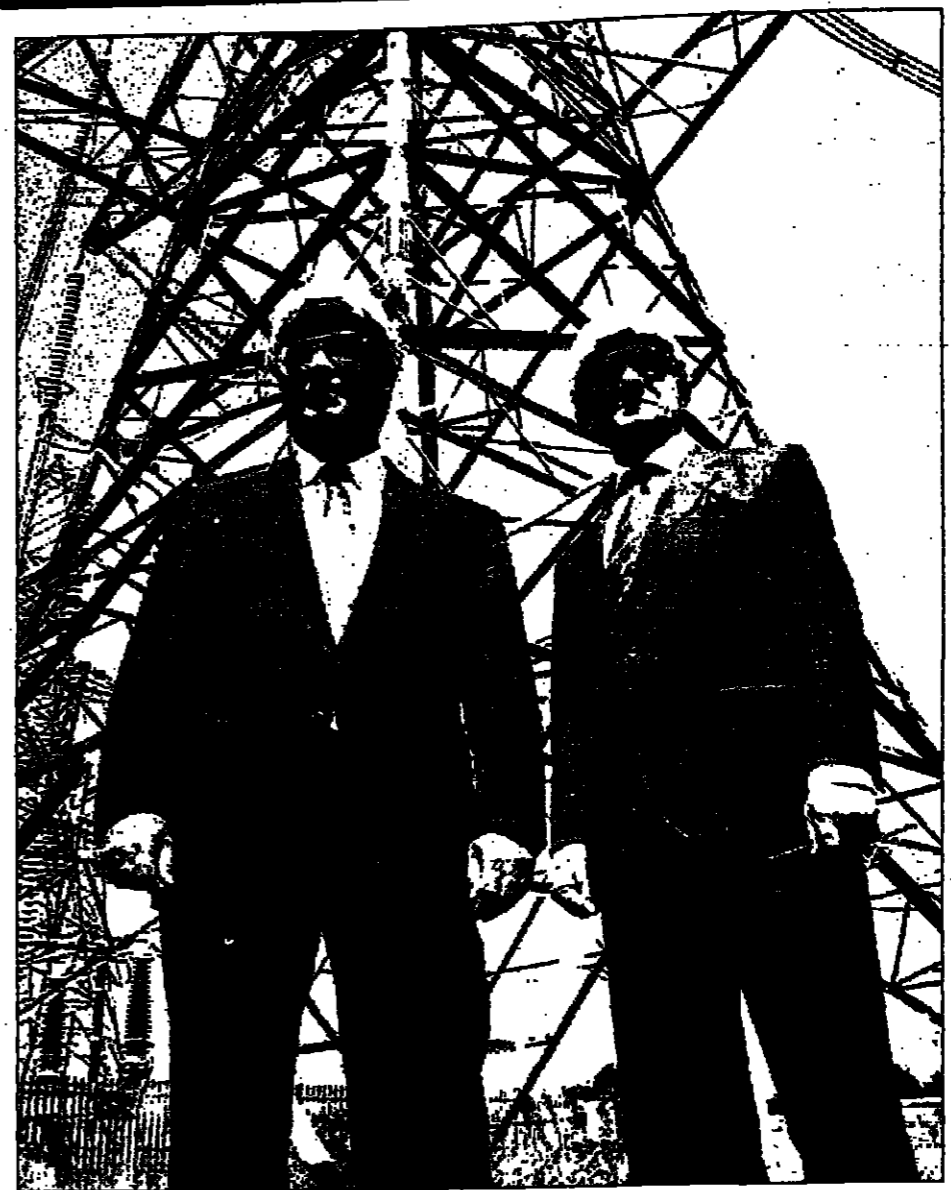
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Fat cats scandal



Northern heights... Ken Harvey tops the pay league with £610,248 for eight months' service at Norweb



Eastern millionaires... John Devaney, left, and James Smith

# The power game millionaires

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie

ANY of the executives who took the electricity industry through privatisation and then saw their companies bought up in last year's binge of takeovers probably hoped that final accounts would slip into Companies House and quietly gather dust.

The records show that directors have walked away from the industry with nearly £27 million in compensation. Against pay-offs of this scale, the furore over the pay of Cedric Brown at British Gas pales considerably.

And it is not only those walking out of the electricity industry into retirement who have become instant millionaires. Some executives still working in highly paid jobs in the industry have shared in the bonanza.

Trade secretary Ian Lang might also have hoped that accounts had remained hidden away.

But the legal requirement for the companies that have been taken over to file accounts means the "fat cat" pay issue looks set to erupt again in the months running up to the election, when Mr Lang and his colleagues had hoped the issue would have been long buried thanks in part to the work of the Greenbury committee on top pay.

That it has not means that his job of scrutinising the latest bids for regional electricity companies — including Dominant Resources £1.25 billion for East Midlands Electricity and CE Energy's £766 million offer for Northern — will become politically much more vexed.

The Guardian's analysis of the fine print in the accounts shows that directors have received a raft of compensation, spanning payments for loss of office and for share options, top-up pensions contributions and last-minute pay rises.

Top of the pay league comes Ken Harvey, former chairman of Norweb, who was paid £610,248 for his eight months' service prior to Norweb's ac-

quisition by North West Water. This is against £233,599 for the previous 12 months.

Mr Harvey was also paid £407,300 compensation for loss of office and more than £378,000 in pension contributions. Comparison with the company's 1995 accounts suggests Mr Harvey also had share options worth £1.48 million.

Other Norweb executives also did well. Cancelling the executive share option scheme cost the company more than £6.4 million. Compensation for loss of office and benefits for the boardroom as a whole cost some £776,000, pay another £330,000, bonuses £168,000, and pension top-ups another £370,000.

Eastern Group executives were also well paid in the company's final year of inde-

pendence. Apart from the million-pound payments to current chairman John Devaney and former chairman James Smith, other board directors shared outlays of £1.86 million for share options and £1 million for the loss of a "performance share scheme". The payments were in addition to the £533,000 paid to directors for loss of office.

At Seeboard, now owned by the US utility Central and South Western, there were few pay-offs because most of the board stayed on. But share options made the directors £1.7 million, on a conservative analysis. Much of this came from a tranche of 417,000 options awarded as late as June 1995, five months before the board and CSW announced they had struck terms for a £1.6 billion agreed takeover.

This final tranche of options was supposed to relate to company performance. But the accounts state that "as a result of the offer, performance criteria relating to options granted on 9 June, 1995 no longer apply".

The closing months of the company's independence also saw part-time chairman Sir Keith Stuart's salary — which is paid to Associated British Ports — rise by 27.6 per cent to £87,000 for nine months' work.

The companies that supply Wales and Merseyside, Manweb and South Wales Electricity, also paid hefty compensation to the boardroom.

Swalec paid holders of share options £1 per share as compensation for the cancellation of a planned share consolidation. The move cost the company £5.7 million as a whole, with some £436,000 going to the boardroom.

The changes meant that boardroom costs at Swalec rose last year from £887,700 to £2.78 million.

In Manweb's boardroom, costs rose from £1 million to £3 million as the company

paid fees of £700,000, £1.3 million in compensation, and £1 million in pensions, benefits and share options.

South Western Electricity has also filed accounts following its acquisition by the Southern Company of the US. However, it does not disclose directors' remuneration on the grounds that they are interim results.

The payments to individuals pale alongside the restructuring costs following the takeovers. Apart from bid costs of some £54 million between the five of the companies — Eastern does not break down its defence costs clearly — the groups have spent £213 million to restructure their operations.

The difficulty for Mr Lang is that the system of generous awards — in particular well-cushioned share option schemes — is a direct product of the Government's privatisation of the industry in 1990.

Closer to home, it was ministers' decisions to lift protective "golden shares" in the companies that opened the flood gates for the spate of takeover bids which has seen all but three regional electricity companies either lose their independence or attract takeovers. Mr Lang has, with only two exceptions — the bids by National Power and PowerGen for RECs — waved the offers through.

With the takeover binge still continuing apace, he may find himself in the firing line as election day draws near.

## Windfalls for the directors

<b>Eastern — bought by Hanson £2.5 billion</b>	
Compensation for loss of office	£0.53 million
Compensation for loss of share options	£3.9 million
Compensation for performance share scheme	£1.8 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6.23 million</b>
<b>Norweb — bought by North West Water for £1.8 billion</b>	
Compensation for share options	£5.4 million
Compensation for loss of office	£0.68 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6.08 million</b>
<b>Manweb — bought by ScottishPower for £1.1 billion</b>	
Compensation for loss of office	£1.3 million
Compensation options, pensions and benefits	£1.0 million
fees	£0.7 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3 million</b>
<b>Swalec — bought by Welsh Water for £270 million</b>	
Compensation for executive options	£1.9 million
Compensation for loss of office	£1.8 million
Special consolidation payments	£0.42 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2.9 million</b>
<b>Seeboard — bought by CSW of US for £1.6 billion</b>	
Compensation for share options	£1.7 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.7 million</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£26.9 million</b>

## 'Slack' security ruined Crown's Lazard case

Fraud trial collapse puts focus on plight of telex operators, says Dan Atkinson

THE £1 million-plus fraud trial involving top merchant bank Lazard Brothers collapsed last week because evidence of lax security torpedoed the Crown's claim that only defendant Jacqueline Tomlinson could have been guilty.

The Guardian has learned the prosecution called a halt when it became clear that one of any number of people could have penetrated Lazard's telex department.

Miss Tomlinson walked free from Snaresbrook Crown Court on Friday after just a

few days of a trial expected to last up to three weeks. It is thought the circumstantial evidence against her was capped by proof of lax security at Lazard, and the Crown chose to withdraw its accusations.

News of slack security prevailing at Lazard's four years ago comes just days after MIDLAND Bank (lashed an SOS from its security chief, John Bryant, warning that Far Eastern crime syndicates have identified the international bank telex system "as an ideal way to defraud institutions".

Mr Bryant urged a worldwide joint response from the banking community to frustrate the fraudsters.

In the wake of the case's collapse, attention now focuses on the plight of three telex operators, including

Miss Tomlinson, who left the bank under a cloud; two were made redundant with an offer of early retirement. Lazard would not comment on whether it now considered the three to withdraw its accusations.

Among the instances of lax security at Lazard in 1992 are thought to be suggestions that the card-key system could easily be circumvented by using back staircases and that telex request forms were on display throughout the bank.

Lazard's position is that the case collapsed because of lack of evidence.

City of London Police fraud squad, which investigated the alleged crime, has closed the file pending new evidence or further information. Police arrived at Lazard on September 28 1992 to investigate a fraud discovered on the afternoon of September 25 and allegedly committed on September 22.

Miss Tomlinson, aged 37, of Stepney, east London, pleaded not guilty to conspiring to defraud Lazard Brothers. She was accused of having conspired with Turkish businessman Huseyin Coban and others.

Mr Coban was said by the Crown to have fled to Turkey from his former home in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. The Crown said an associate, George Perrett, was arrested at Heathrow carrying £2 million of the money.

Prosecutor Richard McGregor-Johnson told jurors she had sent out two forged telexes to banks in Zurich and Frankfurt, ordering the transfers of SFr£23 million and DM£1.9 million to two Turkish bank accounts.

The Crown added that by September 25, the money had been shifted into US dollars and moved to a New York bank; £750,000 had been removed in cash, Mr McGregor-Johnson said.

## Trailblazing green firms lose patience with silent majority

Roger Cowe

COMPANIES that have led the way in reporting on environmental impact are demanding that other firms follow their example or be compelled to do so.

John Elkington, chairman of the consultancy Sustainability, said yesterday that companies that have blazed a green trail

over the past five years wanted to see dramatic progress in reporting on emissions, spending and social impacts generally.

Speaking at the launch of an international review of green reporting, he said the trail-blazers had set a target of 10,000 companies worldwide producing some kind of social report by the year 2005. The current tally is no more than 400.

"They do not want to see

the free-riders getting away with non-reporting. Most are not yet calling for mandatory reporting, but this will come," he said.

Mr Elkington predicted an explosion of activity over the next few years even without mandatory requirements, as demands for greater transparency force more companies to report beyond their traditional financial boundaries.

"Stakeholders are beginning to demand a new kind of report that goes beyond the gloss and beyond the green," Mr Elkington said.

The research published yesterday, in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, found that even the most advanced companies are still falling short of what users want, although many have moved from the original public relations docu-

ments to serious, comparable data.

Only Body Shop came close, however, to meeting the requirements for comprehensive stakeholder reporting. Other leading companies included Phillips Petroleum and the US chemical company Monsanto, and British Airways, BT and Thomson EMI in the UK.

*Engaging Stakeholders. From Sustainability, 0171-937 9896*

## Radical rejig for Lloyd's

Pauline Springett

LOYD'S of London yesterday unveiled the most radical restructuring plan in its 300-year history in an attempt to curb escalating costs, including personnel, and sharpen its commercial focus.

Chief executive Ron Sandler said the plan, which will be implemented in January 1997, would involve scrapping the current muddled structure of the Lloyd's Corporation, which administers the insurance market.

The key plank of the revamp will be the establishment of business units dedicated to specific areas such as insurance services and North America. These will report to boards comprised of members drawn from firms that operate in Lloyd's, and so will be answerable to the Lloyd's marketplace. They will be run like small businesses and will have to produce annual budgets and strategic plans.

In the long run, Mr Sandler expects some of the services, such as claims handling, will also be available to customers outside Lloyd's.

Mr Sandler conceded that jobs cuts among the 3,400 cor-

poration staff would be inevitable, although he refused to say how many people would face the axe. But he insisted the revamp would produce definite overall benefits. "I believe this does create the opportunity for cost savings across the board."

Mr Sandler is under considerable pressure to revitalise the antiquated insurance market swiftly. Lloyd's almost collapsed after thousands of its investors were nearly bankrupted after the market lost \$8 billion in 1992. Two months ago, it pulled off a ground-breaking \$2.2 billion rescue deal with the investors or Names.

But both Mr Sandler and Lloyd's chairman, David Rowland, have made no secret of the fact that much work still needs to be done to enable Lloyd's to compete effectively in the increasingly competitive international insurance market.

There is particular concern about Lloyd's costs, which have been rising alarmingly. In 1995, they outstripped income by £18 million. This was partly because of the expense of sorting out the rescue deal but it also suggested that Lloyd's was in danger of losing its competitive edge.

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سكيا من الامل

with left  
own in  
mouth

Tennis Smith left down in the mouth

Stephen Barley in Telford

BRITISH sport, as the lack of success at the Atlanta Olympics amply demonstrated, is clearly in need of money at the grassroots level, but let nobody run away with the idea that the advent of Lottery funding will lead directly to success.

Tennis, thanks to the millions the Wimbledon championships generate, is not short of funding and the Lawn Tennis Association supports up-and-coming youngsters very generously. Yet internationally, Henman and Rusedski apart, British tennis belongs to the also-rans.

The association was understandably in rather prickly mood yesterday after Sam Smith had pointed out this obvious fact and further suggested that the players were rewarded too early for not doing enough. Smith quickly retracted the criticism, explaining that it was not aimed at the LTA but more at the media.

By this time it was too late for the governing body but clearly put a hex on Smith, the No. 1 seed, who lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 against Claire Taylor yesterday.

"The LTA have supported me very well and I have no negative feelings to say to do them," said Smith after her defeat, a disclaimer that was as hollow as her original criticism had been barbed.

There are those in Telford's echoing halls and warren of corridors who are under the impression that British tennis is booming, and that any criticism is both totally out of order and patently untrue.

Tim Henman's success — and let us not forget he has yet to win a major international tournament, never mind a Grand Slam — has inevitably led to a much more upbeat mood, and Greg Rusedski, who yesterday reached the quarter-finals of the Nationals with a 7-6, 6-4 win over Miles Mauger, came to the corporate defence of his fellow pros.

"Sam is wrong," he said, and five minutes later Nestlé UK announced he was to become its tennis ambassador. In fact Rusedski, whose affinity with young spectators is always apparent, will eventually, via this role, attempt to bring tennis to the inner-city youngsters.

The real trouble with tennis in Britain, and something that the LTA with its plethora of committees and sub-committees has never properly addressed, is that the country's best athletes very rarely get a sniff of the sport which smuggles in its essentially middle-class enclaves.

It took the action of a rebel David Lloyd, the millionaire Sydney Olympic, to get indoor tennis centres built, but when he applied for the chief executive's job this year he did not even get to the shortlist. Worse still, he only learned this second-hand.

Those within the LTA will argue long and hard that throwing money at a sport does not guarantee success, as an impatient public will probably discover during the Sydney Olympics. But where, in tennis, is the talent that is found in, for example, athletics — a sport poorly run at the top, short of money but considerably more successful?

How remarkably lucky the LTA and British tennis in impression that British tennis is booming, and that any criticism is both totally out of order and patently untrue.



Brow-beaten... the former British No. 1 Jeremy Bates finds the going tough against Northamptonshire's Paul Robinson, losing 6-4, 6-3

Sport in brief County for SA coach

GLAMORGAN have appointed the South African Duncan Fletcher as their coach for next summer. He will take up the post at the end of his country's cricket season and stay with the Welsh county until September 16, when he will resume his current position with Western Province.

Fletcher was with South Africa A on their tour of England in July and August during which they beat Glamorgan.

Scotland's Catriona Matthew shot the best under-par 65, to take a one-stroke lead on the opening day of the Australian Women's Masters on the Gold Coast. Matthew, who won last week's Australian Open in Melbourne, carded nine birdies.

Rugby Union Leicester's match against the Barbarians, which is usually played on December 27, has been switched to February 25 this season because of fixture congestion.

Boxing Brighton's Scott Welch has given up the British heavyweight title to concentrate on a WBO championship campaign. His decision gives Norwich's Herbie Hide the chance to regain the title he won in February 1993 but never defended. He has been nominated to fight Julius Francis from Woolwich for the vacant title before the end of February.

Sailing Ras Futer in Ariel was first to finish the second part of the opening leg of Clipper '96 when he and his 13-man crew sailed into Fort Lauderdale with a lead of 200 miles, writes Bob Fisher. In the previous 24 hours, benefiting from strong northerly winds, Ariel had covered 243 miles.

Racing Jockey Club set to relax whip rules

THE Jockey Club is bowing to pressure from within racing to amend the whip rules which have resulted in five jockeys being suspended in two Classic races this summer.

After much deliberation the regulation committee has decided that exceeding the number of strokes in the whip guidelines will no longer lead to automatic suspension.

Any disciplinary action will soon be at the discretion of the racecourse vet, who in the event of a ferocious finish and at the behest of the local stewards will look at the horses involved.

Bruising of the animals will mean automatic suspension, but jockeys who exceed the number of laid down strokes will not necessarily be banned as is the case now.

Following the bad publicity and ridicule heaped on the authorities after the imposition of whip-bans in the 2,000 Guineas and St Leger this season some action had to be taken and this new initiative will be welcomed by racing professionals.

This will put right the ludicrous situation where a skilled rider is penalised for doing his job regardless of whether there are just grounds.

The Jockey Club had seemed unduly influenced by the vociferous criticism of jockey movements in formulating the old whip rule and being more concerned with the image of the sport rather than practicalities of jockeys riding a finish.

No doubt the animal rights people will have something to say on the matter, but if cruelty is now to be the principal criterion they can have no complaints.

At Towcester yesterday there was no whip controversy, but a lengthy stewards' inquiry into the outcome of the Tiffield Handicap Chase won by Ballylea Boy — the first leg of a double for David Nicholson and his jockey Adrian Maguire.

Ballylea Boy held Ard-croney Chief by a neck up the hill after a punishing three miles and a furlong, but the favourite Celtic Silver, beaten four lengths in third, had four closed on him when the race was called.

Richard Guest, rider of Celtic Silver, thought the stewards were "a bit easy on Maguire" but it has to be said that Guest made his own trouble by trying to come between Ballylea Boy and the runner-up.

Nicholson has decided to run Brian Bank in tomorrow's Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham and, with the top weight Dublin Flyer also certain to take his chance, the race is not short of quality.

Ballylea Boy worked AI yesterday morning and he likes first ground there is no reason why he shouldn't run," said Nicholson.

Tim Forster, noted for his taken and this new initiative will be welcomed by racing professionals.

Cheltenham with form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

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Ayr card

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Southampton on handy mark

FAST ground at Cheltenham has ruined today's card when there are only 20 runners, providing punters with a very poor fare, writes Chris Hawkins.

Only four go to post in each of the four televised races, starting with the Mitsubishi Shogun Handicap Chase in which Southampton (2.25) looks the likely winner.

Tony Balding, the gelding's trainer, said at Monday's Hennessy lunch that he regards Southampton as on a very fair mark at the moment and it is hard to disagree with him after the very tight six-year-old ran on his reappearance when runner-up to Callisto Bay at Stratford.

A Cheltenham winner in the past, he has a reputation for being a tricky ride, but Tony Caldwell seems to have struck up a successful partnership with him and takes the mount this afternoon.

Donjny (3.00) blotted his copy-book at Newbury on Wednesday when cutting out and Martin Pipe gives him little time to reflect on what he might regard as a triumph by

saddling him for the Murphy's in A Bertie Hurdle. At his best he would win this and I am prepared to give him another chance.

Sue Smith, wife of Harvey of showjumping fame, has her horses in good form and The Last Fling (3.35) is preferred to Factor Ten in the Steel Plate and Sections Novices Chase.

The Last Fling acts well on fast ground and recorded a decent speed figure when beating Chopwell Curtains at Wetherby over three miles and a furlong last time.

There are some moderate animals in the Burble Conditional Jockeys Hurdle and it is one of those races where nothing looks capable of winning. Ramdens (4.05), is the selection on the strength of a fourth behind Mytton's Choice at Chepstow.

At Ayr, Random Harvest (3.15) looks one of the day's best bets in the Joan Mackay Novices Handicap Chase. He should be good on after finishing two lengths second to Potters Bay in a pretty hot race at Wetherby first time out.

Blinkered today for the first time: AYR: 12.25 Grinnell, Sandown Park, Cradmoor, CHELTENHAM: 4.05 Ramdens, LINGFIELD: 1.40 Eksterini Parisi, Battle Ground; 2.15 Agwa; 3.55 Rock The Barney.

Results

Table listing race results with columns for race name, horse name, jockey, and odds.

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RACELINE 0930 1684 CHELTENHAM 101 102 201 202 AYR 102 103 201 202 LINGFIELD 103 203

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Foreign 'mercenaries' and 'FA dummies' cop a Sugaring

Martin Thorpe

ALAN SUGAR yesterday branded some overseas stars "mercenaries", predicted that many would have left England by the start of next season, and then warned Middlesbrough and the rest of the Premiership that they were heading for a crisis.

prudent buying policy in response to criticisms at the club's AGM. One shareholder claimed: "We are watching drops at White Hart Lane."

He described many clubs as Tottenham imitators "who were jealous of the hype surrounding us. Arsenal signed Dennis Bergkamp and Chelsea got Ruud Geffels, followed by the cast of an Italian opera."

He also issued a stern warning about the effects of the Bosman ruling, accusing "the dummies at the FA" of not understanding its full implications.

"We've faced all sorts of disasters in every season since I've been at the club but nothing as damaging as the effects of the Bosman ruling. It is the greatest danger facing this club and the rest of football."

Pollock to make splash with Bolton

Ian Ross

JAMIE POLLOCK will this weekend back the prevailing trend when he joins Bolton Wanderers.

his only professional club - after being told that the arrival on Teesside of the former import Emerson and another meant he could no longer be guaranteed regular first-team football.

£2 million when he was being courted by Premiership clubs towards the end of last season.

Todd is keen to invest in new players. This week the manager restated his long-standing interest in the Welsh international forward Mark Hughes, who may shortly find himself surplus to requirements at Chelsea after the arrival from Italy of Gianfranco Zola.

Teesside samba now a Brazilian excuse-me

David Hopps on the goings and goings that have shaken angry Middlesbrough.

RYAN ROBSON'S intonation with Brazilian football edged a little closer to final disillusionment yesterday as Middlesbrough's despondent midfielder Emerson failed to meet the club's latest deadline to return to the Riverside Stadium.

side. There are bound to be some problems at a club with 50 players, but I don't expect players to break a contract, especially in the first few months of it.

Middlesbrough now say they expect Emerson to return next week. His partner Andrea is reported to be homesick and no amount of contemplating Tees Bay, as the winds whip in off the North Sea, has promised to alleviate the symptoms.

Not since Captain James Cook more than 200 years ago has anyone generated such a mystery (the manager is willing for the moment to believe reports that he is visiting a sick aunt) and even Juninho's faltering expressions of loyalty yesterday to television and radio had lost air of stage management about them.



Looking elsewhere... Emerson, still in Brazil, may now be heading for Italy

Expressions of loyalty rarely cross national boundaries. "I lived in a big city before I came here and I knew I'd have problems adapting so I brought my family with me."

The Brazilian striker Miranda attracted most attention at Newcastle when Paul Gascoigne shook him by the throat to try to teach him the offside rule.

thi, lasted only 23 matches at Birmingham City.

Brolin fears end is near

THE ill-starred Leeds United striker Tomas Brolin is afraid that his career may be over after the collapse of his loan move to Sampdoria.

The Swede said yesterday he thought it was unlikely that any club would want him after he failed a medical on the foot he broke two years ago.

"It's going to be tough, word gets around," he said. "A doctor in Italy said that a metal staple and screws inserted in his foot would have to be removed before he could be passed fit."

Brolin signed for Leeds from Parma for £1.5 million last November but had been loaned to FC Zurich after falling out with the Yorkshire club.

chanted fans called for his resignation on Wednesday night.

City's 3-2 defeat at home to Oxford United left them sixth from bottom of the First Division to follow their relegation from the Premiership last season.

"There will be no comment made on what happened after last night's game," the Maine Road secretary Bernard Halford said.

"We are on a bit of a sticky wicket at the moment but we will have to battle through it," said Neal. Their next home game is on Tuesday against Huddersfield, managed by a former City incumbent, Brian Horton.

Results

Football (Premier League): 1996-97 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Tickets available for various clubs

1996-7 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Tickets available for various clubs

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Badminton

INTERNATIONAL (Badminton): 1996-97 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Tickets available for various clubs

1996-7 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Tickets available for various clubs

BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355

Rugby Union

Davies earns return to Wales squad

Ian Mallin

JONATHAN DAVIES, who took his talents north seven years ago but returned to rugby union last season, has been recalled to the Wales squad for the international against Australia on December 1.

The Cardiff fly-half, one of three stand-offs in a squad of 26, last played for Wales against Romania eight years ago. Neil Jenkins, the present No. 10, and Arwel Thomas, who played in three Five Nations games last season, are also included.

Davies, who played the 13-man game for Widnes and Warrington, led the Wales rugby league side that reached the semi-finals of last autumn's World Cup before he returned to the union code.

He has taken time to re-adjust to rugby union but has been in impressive form this season, helping Cardiff to the quarter-finals of the European Cup, in which they played at the Arms Park tomorrow.

"It has been difficult coming back into union but I'm delighted to have this chance of playing for Wales again."

The Wales coach Kevin Bowring said: "Jonathan has started to string some notable performances together, playing with control and impressive decision-making. We need more of that, and now that he has started to put those qualities together I am looking forward to seeing him as part of the squad."

Robert Armstrong on the new divisions and its leading clubs

ENGLAND'S leading clubs have reneged on their promise to release players in Courage Leagues One and Two for the divisions' matches against touring sides from the southern hemisphere.

The clubs' decision not to co-operate with the RFU's divisional programme follows the latest breakdown in talks with the union aimed at resolving the nine-month dispute over television agreements and control of competitions.

Epruc wants to put its case to next Friday's meeting of the RFU executive committee. But the RFU is unlikely to be impressed by Epruc negotiators who seem willing to play fast and loose with the players' representative ambitions by withdrawing them from divisional matches in the next month against Argentina, Queensland, South Africa and the New Zealand Barbarians.

This week Twickenham issued a policy statement warning the players that the route to international rugby still lay through the divisions.

Derek Morgan, the chairman of the RFU National Playing Committee, said England's long-term planning for the 1999 World Cup was being jeopardised. "It is a desperately sad day for rugby," he said last night.

A heartfelt call for peace between the sides was made by the England pro Jason Leonard, who wins his 50th cap in the international against Italy at Twickenham next Saturday. "I think I can speak on behalf of all the players when

I say that all we want is to see everything sorted out as soon as possible," he said.

"The only thing any of us want to do is to play rugby - and we are getting the opportunity to play top-class rugby."

A claim by an Epruc director that the "intransigence" of Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee, had reunited the top 24 clubs in common cause against the RFU does not stand close scrutiny. The majority of cash-strapped clubs want to sign a deal with Twickenham because they are desperate to qualify for RFU money to help them pay the salaries of players and professional staff.

It is understood that even wealthy Richmond, who are supported by a £2.5 million investment by Ashley Levett, are on the point of breaking ranks with natural allies such as Newcastle and Saracens and accepting the RFU deal communicated directly to individual clubs last month.

The elite of financially stable clubs, which includes Newcastle, Harlequins, Wasps, Bath, Leicester and Northampton, believe they must continue to negotiate until they have gained complete control over their own competitions and sources of revenue. At present the well-off minority can afford to pay their way, courtesy of millionaires who own the clubs.

A fresh crisis in relations between the RFU and clubs began in the new year if the clubs attempt to withhold the players from the Five Nations Championship, which, in England's case, starts with the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland on February 1. Members of the England squad would then have to choose between club and country even though their club contracts provide for them to be released to play in international matches.

After considering a reported 67 venues, the governing body the WPBSA decided to take 32 16 players to Germany and play the event to a finish in December at the British military base at Osnabrück. The decision was greeted with derision as an irrelevance in terms of promoting the game to the German public.

The promoter Barry Hearn, in announcing this season's Dr Martens European League, one of the few events the WPBSA does not handle, said: "The WPBSA have lost their way. They can't get their way. They can't market the game. The board is a total shambles."

White, the boy wonder of today, has not won a match in his four events this season and yesterday went down 6-1 to the world No. 55 Mark Davis.

Players strike deal

Mark Redding

THE threat of a players' strike was averted yesterday when the Nationwide League clubs agreed a deal with the Professional Footballers' Association.

Under the deal the union will receive £750,000 a year for five years, the first payment going on benevolent packages, insurance and education. A further £800,000 a year will be spent on other projects to be decided by the clubs and PFA.

The package was agreed after a half-hour meeting between all 72 clubs at a London hotel.

The secretary of the Football League, Andy Williamson, said: "Obviously we are pleased that this saga has now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

The PFA had balloted its members on strike action after the League refused to play the established 10 per cent levy from its television income on a new £135 million deal with BSkyB.

The player vote was understood to be in favour of industrial action, but the PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor held back the result while negotiations recommenced. Last season the union had received £500,000.

Yesterday's meeting had an unpleasant ending for the League president Gordon McKeag, whose chair was whisked from under him when the clubs overwhelmingly backed a call for an overhaul of the League's structure.

The change would see the seven-man board scrapped and replaced by a nine-man body, though it needs to be ratified by a 75 per cent vote at an emergency meeting next month. McKeag would keep his title until next summer but relinquish his position as board chairman.

Fixtures (745 unless stated)

Soccer

Ice Hockey

Cricket

Snooker

Snooker

Gray leaves Parrott blue

DAVID GRAY, who in June last year at the age of 16 years and two months superseded Jimmy White as the youngest ever English amateur champion, recorded the best win of his first professional season yesterday. He beat the world No. 4 John Parrott 5-3 in Preston to reach the last 16 of the German Open.

"David's a good little player and I was awful," said Parrott. "The combination of the two has led to this."

Gray played his final qualifying round in Blackpool in September believing that he would then go on to Germany. But afterwards he discovered that his next match would in fact be at Preston Guildhall, the day before the unopposed UK Championship, which begins there today.

Sport and money

John Duncan hears good news and bad news about the massive National Lottery funding scheme for British elite competitors

# Redgrave warns on £40m hold-up

THE Government's delay in channelling Lottery money to top competitors may already have damaged the Sports Council's £40 million-a-year scheme for elite performers, said Steve Redgrave, the four-times Olympic champion, at yesterday's launch of the programme.

"It is a worry that this money is not here straight away," said the veteran rower, "because obviously other countries are snapping up the best coaches."

"Athletes are aware that this pool of money is there, and that is causing some confusion. But we are prepared to wait if we know that the scheme is going to be the best that it can be."

The money, to assist up to 4,500 elite performers, will not start flowing until next March, not soon enough to help the hard-up through winter training, especially those preparing for the 1997 athletics world championships. The British Athletic Federation's recent financial crisis caused the cancellation of several coaching sessions this winter.

Redgrave's doubts were echoed by the shadow minister for sport, Tom Pendry. "It is a shame that, due to the Government dragging its feet on this matter, the changes have taken so long," said the Labour MP. "Britain's athletes have lost crucial preparation time in the next Olympic cycle."

Pendry also pointed out that there is still no decision on a national stadium and a continuing delay over an elite British Academy of Sport.

The Sports Council scheme, when it comes on stream, will be a boon to top-level British sport, ensuring that competitors at national and international level will not have to take part-time jobs or struggle on the dole as they prepare to represent their country.

"It will be great for me," said the swimmer Paul Palmer, the first British medalist in Atlanta. "If I get it, it would mean I could afford to move away from Lincoln to where the best facilities are." Performers from age 11 upwards will be able to apply for up to £28,000 of funding for "lifestyle support". A further £20 million has been set aside for coaches and scientists to work with the British elite.

To win funding for their competitors, sports governing bodies will have to set performance targets stating what improvements they will achieve with the money.

The next battle for the Sports Council is to convince the Inland Revenue not to tax funding as income, a point currently in dispute.

"We are in careful negotiation with them through the Department of National Heritage," said Sir Rodney Walker, the council's chairman. "We are trying to help them understand that the Treasury already taxes the Lottery at 12 per cent and shouldn't tax it again when we make grants to athletes."

## Deserving causes



**Jim Walker**  
Sport: Rowing  
Age: 28

Form: In Britain's heavyweight Olympic eight in 1992-93. Has rowed in seven world championships, notably in the 1991 bronze-medal eight.

WALKER was so strapped for cash in the run-up to Atlanta that he was forced to sell his training boat for £2,000 to pay for food and rent. He received £2,000 from the old Sports Aid Foundation's Top 100 Club, which all went on pre-Olympic training trips to Spain, Bulgaria, Florida and Canada.

His only sponsorship is a product-endorsement deal which pays him £25 every time the company uses his image in a magazine. He has recently borrowed £10,000 to return to education - he is doing a PhD in environmental studies at Imperial College - and so remain in rowing.

He plans to go full-time again two years before Sydney.



A new dawn for the best Britons... heavyweight rower Jim Walker sculls his way down the Thames in training yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON



**Paul Palmer**  
Sport: Swimming  
Age: 22

Form: 1996 Olympic 400m freestyle silver medalist.

IT WAS Palmer's comments in Atlanta about lack of funding which set in motion the debate which led to yesterday's announcement. "The public think of the Olympics as a two-week affair which happens every four years," he said. "But for the athletes they are a four-year affair which happens every day."

It was not only Palmer who made big sacrifices; his coach Ian Turner gave up his teaching post to train him full-time.

Palmer's main income was his £8,000 grant from the Top 100 Club plus an Amateur Swimming Association grant.

"The funding wasn't really enough to get me to the Olympics," he said. "But I got a medal; whether I would have got gold with better funding I'll never know."



**Ben Ainslie**  
Sport: Sailing  
Age: 19

Form: 1996 Olympic silver medalist in Laser class.

AFTER he qualified for the Atlanta Games, Ainslie's annual grant from the Royal Yachting Association was raised sixfold from £3,500 to £20,000. Though that may sound a lot, it costs £25,000 a year to keep an Olympic boat on the road and afloat.

Like most of Britain's Olympians, Ainslie's biggest

supporters are his parents, who provide rent-free living - also known as home comforts - and financial help.

"I sail in one of the cheapest classes but it still works out expensive," said Ainslie, who has returned to his studies after training full-time for a year before Atlanta.

"Now I know the funds are available I can start preparing properly for the next four years and structure my training around Sydney without any worries."



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**Angie Thorp**  
Sport: Athletics  
Age: 23

Form: 1996 Olympic 100m hurdles semi-finalist, breaking Sally Gunnell's 10-year-old UK record.

THORP was unusual among Britain's Olympic team in that she combined athletics with full-time work.

She lived off her £15,000 annual salary from Abbey National in Sheffield, her parents helping with items such as training trips abroad and vitamin supplements.

After Atlanta she took the decision to work part-time and move to Guildford to be near her coach in an all-out attempt to win a medal at next year's world championships. She receives no sponsorship except for a kit deal and still relies on her parents for financial help.

Thorp estimates she needs £20,000 a year to prepare properly for Sydney.



**Lynn Simpson**  
Sport: Canoeing  
Age: 25

Form: Slalom world champion and World Cup series title-holder.

SIMPSON is an example of how the system might work if applied properly. She received £18,000, the maximum allowed, from the Top 100 Club last year and retained her position among the world's top canoeists.

Nevertheless she feels she could have achieved more

with even better funding. "I could spend well over £20,000 per year on competition and training around the world," she said. "I'm not talking about five-star luxury, just the opportunity to pursue my sport to the optimum level."

Simpson warns against simply throwing money at the problem, however, saying: "What's the use of people having access to the facilities that our rivals have?"

Profiles by Duncan Mackay

Rugby League

# Wigan ask for less time on TV

Paul Fitzpatrick

SOME clubs would kill to get on television, but Wigan are appealing for less exposure when the second Super League season starts next year.

The first season, which ended with Wigan runners-up to St Helens, saw the club overtaken for the first time in 11 years as the sport's biggest crowd-pullers.

Now Wigan, in an attempt to entice back the 4,000 spectators they have lost, are to revert to a 3pm Sunday start for all non-televised games. Admission prices will stay the same.

Wigan are also advocating equal air time for all Super League clubs and a restriction on the number of live appearances by any one team.

Maurice Lindsay, the game's chief executive, said yesterday that Sky television would inevitably want to select the "plum" games but, before the schedules were announced, Wigan's concern would be considered sympathetically.

"Sky try to do the best of their ability to give a balanced spread," he said, "but, as the end of the season approaches, teams pressing for the championship tend to figure more prominently than others. But we will try to make things as equitable as possible."

Wigan's falling crowds and mounting debts, put at about £3 million, mean that the club have been forced into a policy of economic stringency. The days of the "mega contract" at Central Park are over, Jack Robinson, the chairman, told this week's annual general meeting.

Wigan's recruitment policy was still as good as any, he said, "but we will have to be a bit more economical and get the same sort of quality players we have recruited in the past."

Robinson has been as good as his word recently. Two 21-year-old highly rated Murray, the full-back David Kivray and the back-row forward Stuart Lester, have signed from Auckland Warriors and the prop Robert Henare, the Junior Kivray captain, may follow them.

Wigan's directors will open talks next week with Dave Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic soccer club, about his offer to buy Central Park for £2 million and his plans to redevelop the stadium for the use of both clubs.

Meanwhile, Iestyn Harris, Warrington's 20-year-old Wales and Great Britain back who is on the transfer list at £1.35 million, has missed the chance of joining Leeds. He said he was flattered by Leeds's approach but had set his heart on joining St Helens.

Golf

# Trees knock Westwood sideways on the 18th

David Davies in Miyazaki

AN ELEMENTARY error - "the recklessness of youth" Lee Westwood himself called it - cost the 23-year-old Englishman the chance of a share of the lead in the Dunlop Phoenix event here in Japan yesterday.

Westwood, winner last week of the Visa Taiheyo event near Tokyo, had been duelling throughout the first round with Jumbo Ozaki, a Japanese giant in stature and reputation, trying to outwit a man who is largely regarded as un-outfittable. Westwood had managed to get his tee

shot past Ozaki on three occasions during the round, but by the 18th tee had lost the honour.

Ozaki smashed a huge drive up the middle and Westwood decided he "would try to hit it past him". "Instead," he smiled, "I hit it 30 yards into the trees."

After that he struggled for a par at what is a birdieable par five and had to settle for a four-under-par 67, one behind the leader Tom Watson, level with Joe Ozaki and one ahead of Jumbo.

Watson, level with Westwood on the last tee, birdied the hole to take the outright lead, accepting in mature fashion that he was

going to be 20 yards or so behind Joe Ozaki but deciding that on the whole it did not matter much. He played the hole in conventional fashion, playing short of the green before pitching to 20 feet and holing the last of only 28 putts. He also holed one of 45 feet, two of 18 and one of 15.

Westwood's self-confessed recklessness off the 18th tee meant that not only was he deep in the trees to the right, he was behind one of them and with a root directly in front of his ball. His had to play out sideways with a wedge; then he hit a magnificent three-wood 247 yards to the green before missing

what would have been an outrageous birdie from 22 feet. "You're supposed to play the hole with a drive, three-wood and wedge," he said afterwards. "I played it with a drive, wedge and three-wood, so what's the difference?"

But this talented young Workop golfer knows full well the difference, and conceded afterwards that being drawn into a big-hitting battle with the likes of Jumbo Ozaki had been unwise.

Nevertheless, with four birdies and no bogies, he put himself into a good position to emulate last week's win, a double which would yield \$227,000 in prize-money.

"It helps," he said afterwards, "to play with good players playing well because it brings you along. It was fun to see my name on the leaderboard with a legend like Tom Watson."

Westwood, who had been undecided whether to play in the field of 25 in the Japan Series event in two weeks' time, with its \$300,000 (£186,000) first prize, has now decided that he will go home at the end of this week, and stay there. "I'm tired," he said yesterday. "I've been at home for six weeks since January and my mum and dad and fiancée have forgotten what I look like."

What he looks like to Watson is both good and young. "He's got a modern swing, a good action, he's a good putter and he's 23 years old; I'd trade places with him," said the American who has won eight major championships.

A win here would turn what Watson considers to be a "pretty good" year into an excellent one, given that before he won the Memorial event in June he had not won anything of significance for eight years. He has yet another new putter and although he says it has not cured his short-putt problems, he compensates by holding the long ones.

Motor Racing

# World champion Hill unhurt as tyre test runs into a wall

DAMON HILL escaped unharmed yesterday when he collided heavily with a solid wall while testing tyres for his new Arrows team in Japan.

The Formula One world champion lost control and spun at low speed on cold tyres on the exit from the hairpin at Suzuka.

Hill was driving a Ligier for the scheduled two-day test because he is too tall to fit inside the Arrows car, which has yet to be adapted

for him. The team were evaluating the Bridgestone tyres they plan to use next season.

The former Williams driver, who clinched the world title by winning at Suzuka in October, had impressed before the accident. He set a fastest lap of 1min 40.14sec, which beat the previous best by a Ligier by more than 1.6sec.

Hill said before testing: "The purpose of this week's test is to get out there and establish where they [Bridgestone] stand now and what their potential is. It's important for me to get up to speed with them."

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Jockey Club set to relax whip rules, page 13

Boro lose their Brazilian touch, page 14

Sportsmen join the dash for cash, page 15

Wigan want less TV time, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## Botham wins England recall

### Full of shame but as punch drunk as ever

Mike Selvey reports on the daunting tour role that David Lloyd has given to the country's most charismatic cricketer this winter

ENGLAND yesterday added a familiar name to their winter tour party when Ian Botham was invited to act as technical adviser in Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

back row of the stands by Raymond Illingworth, then the chairman of selectors. His retirement has opened the way for Botham's return to international duty. David Lloyd, who took over as England's full-time coach last summer, has already identified as a priority the need to produce top-quality bowlers, and Botham's experience and tactical knowledge are seen as important to the programme.

he will not be paid for his advice and will continue with his work as a Sky TV commentator. During his career he was the most English of English bowlers, with the capacity to snake the ball both ways in the air, using natural aggression and unbounded enthusiasm. Nothing — when he had the ball in his hands anyway — was impossible.

without gaining the confidence of the players. Last winter Illingworth employed both John Edrich and Peter Lever as batting and bowling coaches respectively but, despite their enviable records at international level, neither gained the players' confidence.

and John Emburey. His biggest problem could lie with his television work. Some years ago Geoff Boycott's expertise was incorporated in the England coaching scene but the players objected to the maestro telling them one thing in the news and then criticising them on air. Botham is sure to be running the same gauntlet.



Vincent Hanna

ADMIT it, I did buy a pay-per-view subscription for the Tyson fight. "It's part of my job," I babbled at a man in the train. "I don't approve of it, but I have to." He was mildly sympathetic. "You're a prat," he said. "I watched it next day." I hadn't the guts to tell him that I did the same thing; I fell asleep after the Naseem Hamed and Steve Collins fights, and forgot to set the video.

large missionary with a great left hook — as Randolph Turpin beat Sugar Ray Robinson with Barrington Dalby at the ringside. Or recovering from the flu when Don Cockell fought Rocky Marciano. I can still hear the superb commentary by Samonn Andrews. Or sneaking downstairs at 2am to watch the first Clay v Liston fight. Or huddling in a cinema on the Edgware Road in 1974 to see Muhammad Ali knock out George Foreman in Zaire. It is still the greatest sporting moment in my life. McIlvanney tells how he sat in Ali's villa and listened to him unpick the fight for two hours: how he opted not to dance, how he let Foreman punch himself out on the ropes.



Striking pose... Brian Laudrup fires Rangers into a seventh-minute lead at Celtic Park last night

PHOTOGRAPH: DARREN WALSH

Scottish Premier Division: Celtic 0, Rangers 1

## Everybody misses but Laudrup

Patrick Glenn

ON A night when Paul Gascoigne and Pierre van Hooydonk each made a mess of penalty kicks, and most other players managed to miss at some point when scoring would have been easier, Rangers were left with Brian Laudrup's perfectly struck first-half goal to take them back to the top of the Premier Division.

the forward pass when he suddenly slipped and landed on his rear. Laudrup took the ball away on his own, reached the edge of the penalty area and drilled the ball low to the right of Kerr. It was a terrific finish, taking full advantage of O'Neill's misfortune.

time spent in enemy territory, for long periods found difficulty in creating space where it mattered. They were not helped by Di Canio's insistence on playing to the crowd, appealing to the referee with mock hurt at every turn. It was no surprise when he was cautioned for his antics.

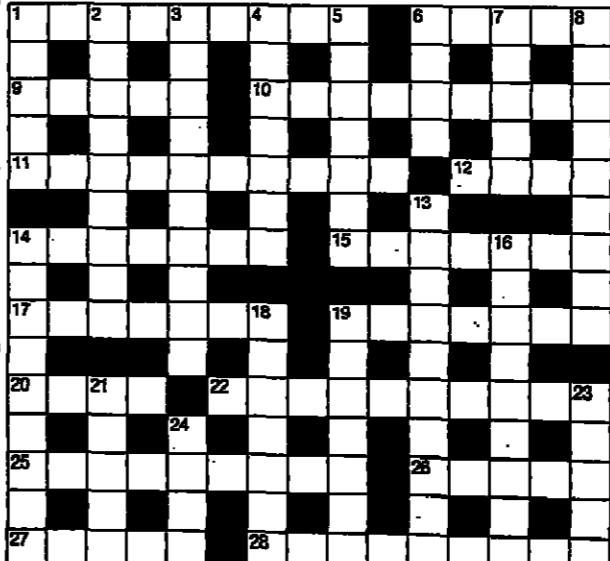
high to his right to save one net-bound effort, but Laudrup still looked the most menacing man on the field, forcing Kerr to block after he had intercepted a slack pass from Boyd.

side of the penalty area. Things began to look much better, however, when they survived a penalty-kick just a few minutes later. Kerr brought down Laudrup as the Dane knocked the ball out towards the by-line, but Gascoigne's kick was weakly struck and close to the young goalkeeper, who lopped to his left to smother the ball.

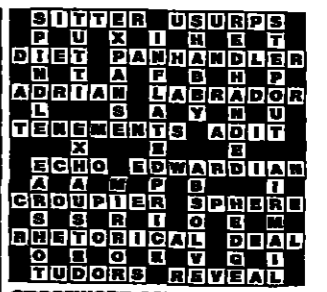
Celtic: Kerr, Boyd, O'Neill, McNamara, Stubbs, Grant, Di Canio, Wiegman, Van Hooydonk, Thom, Donnelly; Rangers: Gascoigne, Robertson, Gough, Peirce, Bjorkland, Moore, Gascoigne, McInnes, Albertz, Laudrup.

### Guardian Crossword No 20,811

Set by Fawley



- Across
1 Town's almost put claim in for redevelopment (8)
6 Live and work packaging black music (5)
9 Turn north with hesitation? I'm lost (5)
10 Congenial Italian is backing representative at one firm (8)
11,22 It could pay to look after one's circulation (10,10)
12 Fellow needs attention, giving cause for concern (4)
14 Have to restrain nag — a wild one? (7)
15 Test method of delivery usually employed? (7)
17 Ray has to smile after hearing a child (7)
19 Introduction of Spanish article needed over by puritan (7)
20 Beam, taking in start of comedy that's risqué (4)
22 See 11 across



- 7 Green stuff covering coastal features, we're told (5)
8,23 Creating a scene by putting on airs? (9,5)
13 See 6 down
14 See 1 down
16 AI expanded into recyclable packaging (9)
18 Nothing in edition of Milton provided illumination (7)
19 Endlessly show off neat contradiction? (7)
21 Belief held by sacred order (5)
23 See 8 down
24 See 3 down
Solution tomorrow
21 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 238 238. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-9pm, and 40p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by AT5.

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